



ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
April 2009



Story page 24

**World Amateur Radio Day
April 18th**

**Theme - "Amateur Radio:
Your Resource in Disaster and
Emergency Communication"**

**IRTS AGM Weekend
April 25/26th
Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone
Details on page 6**

80 foot top loaded 160/80m vertical at EI7M

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News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC, Roland EI4GYB Ger EI4GXB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Mayo	2000	145.600	FM	John EI7IQ, Padraic EI9JA, Jimmy EI2GCB
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI7IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.675		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625		Steve EI5DD
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Gareth EI7FZB, Robbie EI8FZB

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Committee Members 2008/09

Elected

Thos Caffrey, EI2JD
Sean Donelan, EI4GK
Ger McNamara, EI4GXB
Brendan Minish, EI6IZ
Mark Condon, EI6JK
Joe Ryan, EI7GY
John Ronan, EI7IG
Seamus McCague, EI8BP
Ger Gervin, EI8CC
John McCarthy, EI8JA
Pat O'Connor, EI9HX

Co-Opted

Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX
Sean Nolan EI7CD

New IRTS Webmaster



Gerry Kavanagh, EI8DRB, has taken over as Webmaster of the IRTS website. Gerry is a Unix Systems Administrator and Web Developer from County Galway.

Having gained an interest in all things electrical and electronic, particularly radio, from his father at a young age, he proceeded to get his experimenter's license in 1990.

These days, his interests include vintage radios, photography, software defined and DSP based radios, HF and VHF portable work, homebrewing and kit-building and a good old ragchew on 80m or top-band.



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IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS visits North Dublin Radio Club



Back row: Brendan EI4EPB, Nick SWL, John EI7JG, Jim EI4GZ, Dermot EI4ESB, Tony EI5EM

Front row: Eddie EI5IC, Finbarr EI1CS Pres. IRTS, Tom EI6K, Tony EI6EQB.

Mayo News Broadcasts

The IRTS news is now broadcast on the Mayo Repeater on Sunday evenings at 8pm local time.

The news readers are John, EI7IQ, Padraic, EI9JA and Jimmy, EI2GCB. The Mayo REN plans to extend the service soon.

Echo Ireland on PDF.

If you would like to receive Echo Ireland by way of electronic download, and so help to reduce the Society's postage bill, please advise the Membership Records Officer.

Include your call sign and email address in the request, and send it to:

memrecords@irts.ie

Crossakiel Amateur Radio Association

After the recent AGM, the Committee for 2009 is as follows.

President: Gary EI3GIB,
Vice President: Alan EI5GFB,
Treasurer: Steven EI4GKB,
Secretary: John EI6GHB.

CARA meets every Wednesday evening at 2000 in "The Welcome Wagon" Crossakiel, Co Meath. Visitors are always welcome.

New IRTS Appointments

Trevor Dunne EI2GLB has been appointed as the new VHF manager and Jason McGarrigle is the new Regional Representative for Region 2, Donegal. Congratulations and thanks to both.

Silent Key Dick Murphy EI2AG

Richard (Dick) Murphy EI2AG, Drogheda, after being unwell for some time, died on Thursday 19th February. The funeral was held in Drogheda after Requiem Mass on Saturday 21st, February.

IRTS was represented at the funeral by, Peter EI4HX; Pat EI2HX; Thos EI2JD, committee members and also a large attendance of local amateurs and SWL's.

Dick was an early pioneer of RTTY and the use of computers in Radio. He was a well-respected surveyor and builder for many years before his retirement. May he rest in Peace.

HF Band Plan

Band Plans are modified from time to time to reflect changes in international regulations and in operating requirements. A new HF band plan came into effect in IARU Region 1 - which includes Ireland - on Sunday 29th March.

The new band plan takes account of the fact that, under international regulations, the segment 7100 to 7200 kHz will be upgraded to 'amateur primary' from that date.

The principal changes incorporated in the new band plan are in the 40 metre band, with exclusive CW now extended to 7040 kHz, and two SSB contest preferred segments - from 7060 to 7100 kHz and from 7130 to 7200 kHz. Priority for intercontinental operation will now be in the segment 7175 to 7200 kHz.

Revised centres of activity for SSB QRP and emergency traffic are also included in the new band plan.

A copy of the new band plan may be downloaded from the downloads page of the IRTS web site:

www.irts.ie/downloads

World First EME QSO on 4 Metres

The world first EME QSO on 4 metres using WJST between GD0TEP (IO74**) and ZS6WAB (KG64rc) took place on February 15th.

The mode used for the 2 way contact EME was JT65a and the pre-arranged QSO took place between 01:31 and 01:37, after a 1 hour wait.

A previous sked trial on Friday 13th which was unsuccessful due to water in a "waterproof" enclosure for the relay working the mast head amp.

Details on the web site show all.
http://gd0tep.com:80/wsjt/4m/World_1st_on_4m.htm

Stolen Radio

On the 18th March between 7pm and 9.30 pm, an Icom 207h was removed from a vehicle at Tullamore outside Atlantic Homecare.

anyone with any information please contact EI5GLB 087-7757574

Limerick Radio Club

At the Club AGM held on 26 February 2009 the following were elected to the incoming committee:

Chairman	Dermot Gleeson EI2GT
Hon Secretary	Michael Kingston EI2IX
Hon Treasurer	Tony Condon EI2AW

Committee members

John Edgeworth EI6IW
Simon Kenny EI7ALB
Ger Mc Namara EI4GXB
Tom O'Brien EI5CA

Engineers Ireland - Week of Wonder

The Club's participation in Engineers Ireland's in the recent Week of Wonder was a great success. Students from the local primary school attended at the Limerick Institute of Technology and took part in the IRTS workshop.

The Students were introduced to the science of radio and communications by means of a multi media presentation. They went on to construct an audio oscillator which was used by them to send Morse. Lets hope that this exposure to radio technology will stimulate the interest of some of them to consider becoming professional engineers in the future.

The workshop was organized locally by Ger McNamara EI4GXB, in conjunction with the Radio Engineering Department of the Institute.

Club members who participated in the workshop were Tony Condon EI2AW, Michael Kingston EI2IX, Dermot Gleeson EI2GT and Simon Kenny EI7ALB.

Radio, Electronics & Hobbies Exhibition

The committee would like to thank all those who attended the recent Exhibition at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Limerick. We would particularly like to thank those who travelled from outside the immediate catchment area of Limerick, given the bad weather conditions on the day.

Your attendance and support is very much appreciated by the Club.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the UK traders and the local Irish traders for their attendance at the Exhibition and for helping to make it a successful event. Particular thanks to ICOM, BHI and Yaesu for their generous donations of prizes for the annual raffle.

The winners of the raffle were:

1 st Prize	Revere Richardson EI9EYB
2 nd Prize	John Edgeworth EI6IW
3 rd Prize	John Edgeworth EI6IW

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society.

Members of the Dundalk ARS were active on St. Patrick's Day from the QTH of Thos EI2JD in Clogherhead.

Having 2 HF and 1 VHF stations set up, they were able to give out the club call EI7DAR to over 600 hams world wide.

The countries ranged from Europe to Russia to Cocos Keeling Island off Australia, Nigeria and South Africa, the Falkland Islands and included Islands in the Caribbean and of course a lot of Irish in North America and Canada.

There is a small 4-minute video available to view on You Tube, just search for Dundalk Amateur Radio.

This was just one of the many activities Dundalk ARS have planned for the coming year to celebrate it's 40th Anniversary.

More info can be found on the club website, including a live link to the Dundalk repeater. www.ei7dar.com

IRTS AGM Weekend

Hosted by Shannon Basin Radio Club

**Shamrock Lodge Country House Hotel
& Conference Centre, Athlone**

Telephone 0906-492601

April 25/26th 2009

***Annual General Meeting
Sunday 26th April 2009 at 1430.***

***Annual Dinner
Saturday 25th April 2009.***

Tickets €35.00

Tickets available from:

Michael EI4AL, Mickey EI5EAB, Tony EI6DL and Pat EI9HX. (contact details below)

***Rally with Bring and Buy
All the usual traders
Sunday 26th April 2008.
Doors opening at 1000***

All enquiries to:

Michael Bourke EI4AL

087-2702833

bourkes@hotmail.com

Michael White EI5EAB

090-6479643

ei5eab@hotmail.com

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Pat O'Connor EI9HX

087-6767707

ei9hx@eircom.net

Local B & B's

Shannon Side House, West Lodge Road (Mark and Linda Egan) Phone: 090 6494773

High Trees, Clonown Rd, Athlone (Next to front gate of the hotel) Phone: 090 6492547

Bastion B&B, 2 Bastion Street, Athlone 090 6494954

(Anthony and Vinny Mc Cabe; only 5 min walk from hotel)

Riverdale House, Canal Banks, Athlone Phone: 090 6492480



HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome to yet another edition of 'HF Happenings' and I'm now just beginning my 4th year of writing this feature. Take a moment to think back to the way band conditions were back in 2005/6 when the likes of YX0LIX, 6O0N, 3Y0X, VU4AN were gracing the bands. Gee, was it that long ago??

Desecheo Island

I had the pleasure of working KP5/N3KS from the very rare Desecheo Island in 2005 and was quite proud, in fact, with my 1 single QSO. Since that brief operation, KP5 still ranked highly up the DXCC most wanted list and in fact it was rated at #2 in Asia, #3 in Europe and #6 Worldwide. Until now, that is. One would have to have been rather oblivious not to have noticed the enormous pile-ups on K5D recently, although this strange callsign may have started a few heads scratching at the start.

Desecheo Island was QRV from 13th Feb. to 26th Feb and it has to be said that this large multi-national team led by Bob, K4UEE did a tremendous job in dishing out this rare one to the deserving. In fact, despite the huge pile-ups, EI has a great advantage for once compared to the rest of Europe on this one and any other Caribbean station for that matter so it was no wonder that several EI's worked them from 160 to 15m and I'm sure if there had been a few sunspots, they could have been worked on 12, 10 & 6m too. Congratulations to all who made it into their logs and the good news is, the QSL design has now been approved so QSLing should begin quite shortly. Again, QSL to Bob, N2OO or via OQRS with a donation. The following is from Bob, K4UEE upon his return from K5D:

All team members have safely returned home. The K5D DXpedition, 12-26 February 2009, netted 115,783 QSOs, including one QSO with the International Space Station. The DXpedition ranks #7th for all-time number of QSOs, and the #1 DXpedition with the most 30m contacts.

More importantly, we are confident that thousands of radio amateurs worldwide now have a QSO with Desecheo for an all-time new one--our overall #1 goal !

Desecheo was #2 Most Wanted in Asia and #3 Most Wanted in Europe. We are happy to report that 40% of our contacts were with Asia and Europe!!! Another important goal achieved !

The QSL card is in the final stages of design and will be available in the next few weeks. You may QSL directly to N2OO, but online QSL requests are available and highly recommended. For details see our website: <http://www.kp5.us/qsls.htm>.

Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and posted early next year.

The Desecheo 2009 team wants to thank everyone for working us and helping to make this DXpedition such a success!

Ogasawara.

Anyone still needing this one will be pleased to hear that from 29th April to 5th May, a 4 man team will be operating from Chichijima Island, OC-031 and will be QRV from 160 to 6m SSB, CW & DIGI. Things may get a bit confusing as each will have their own individual callsign so be sure to listen out for,

JD1BLK, JD1BMH, JD1BMT & JD1BLY. Take a look at these following web pages for more information.

<http://radio-dream.com/jd1blk/e/>;

<http://sapphire.ganko.tohoku.ac.jp/jd1bmh/>

<http://www.ji5rpt.com/jd1/>.

Midway Island (Atoll)

Midway Island 2009.

It is with great pleasure that an operation from the rare KH4 has been recently announced.

Please read the following press release.

A multi national team of 19 operators will activate Midway Island in October 2009. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has authorized amateur operation from this rare US entity for only a 10 day period, its first radio activity in almost 10 years. Midway Island ranks number 24 worldwide and number 13 in Europe on the DX Magazine's "Most Wanted List". Activity will be on 6 meters to 160 meters with 5 to 6 stations. At least one station will be active on 20 meters around the clock for those who need it for a new country. Major efforts will be made to meet the demand to the most needed geographical areas, the low bands and RTTY.

Team members are AA4NN, EA1IR, DJ9ZB, KH7U, KI6TVS, KL2A, N1DG, N4PN, N4XP, N6GQ, N7CQQ, WB4JTT, W6KK, W6OSP, WA7NB, W8CAA, W8GEX, WA8NJR and OK1KT.

Off site support is being provided by AA1V, W5DNT and W6XA.

Travel to Midway is only allowed by chartered aircraft. Because of the size of the aircraft, the team is presented with unique challenges. As such, the aircraft will only be able to carry the team requiring the equipment to be shipped by boat some months ahead. Adding to the high cost of transportation, daily fees and other charges established by the USF&WLS makes this operation very expensive.

A web site has been established and can be found at: www.midway2009.com.

Please support this endeavor by sending a donation. To make it easy to donate you can contribute electronically using the web site or if you choose regular means you may do so.

Instructions will be given on the web site for either method.

Updates will be published on the web site as they become available.

Tom N4XP & Dave WB4JTT
Co Leaders for Midway Island 2009

Central Kiribati.

YT1AD, Hrane, is putting together his next operations, from Tokelau, Central Kiribati and Conway Reef in the Pacific.

Hrane is probably better known for his tremendous achievements on N8S, Swains Island operation in 2007. With the help of co-leader, K3LP, David, ZK3 and T31 are planned for April 2010 or the end of September, 2010 and 3D2C is being planned for the end of September, 2011. YT1AD and YU1DW, Miki, will be out there April 20-May 7 this year to try to get things

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lined up, and will do some operating, 5W8A and 5W0DW April 22, KH8/N9YU April 22-24, 3D2AD and 3D2DW April 25 and May 4, and T30M and T30DW April 27-29.
<http://www.yt1ad.info/t31>

Swaziland.

GI4FUM, David, aka EI4DJ and 3DA0DJ, plans an expedition for August with the 3DA0SS callsign. He will be on from the international scout camp near Manzini, operating July 31-August 11. The site is "scrubland on a hillside." David thinks there will be plenty of wooden poles available for supporting wire antennas and building "scout pioneering type towers." And, he says, there are still operator openings for anyone interested in going along on this adventure. David would also like antenna suggestions.

Mozambique.

The C91FC Mozambique expedition will be April 9-13. It will be led by ON4AEO, Philip, who led last year's 7P8FC Lesotho team. Also operating will be ON7BK, ZS6AYC, ZR6APT, ZS6GC, ZS6ACT, ZS5JC, ZS6ABR, ON4CJK, ZS5LH and ON3AEO. The team is expecting to be on 80-10m phone, RTTY, PSK and CW. QSL via ON4CJK, bureau or direct. For a direct card, include one IRC or two U.S. dollars with self addressed envelope. Otherwise, you'll get your card via the bureau. And the QSL address: JOSE' DUYCK, MOLENAKER 56, 8740 EGEN, BELGIUM.
<http://www.c91fc.be>.

Fernando de Noronha.

PY2WAS, Alex, updates us on the June 2009 Fernando de Noronha (SA-003) DXpedition. The team will include Alex as well as PY2TNT, Anderson; N6OX, Bob; and PY2AAZ, Fabio. Look for ZY0F to begin around 2300Z on June 10th and continuing through around 1300Z on June 15th. They guys will be operating on 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40, 60, 80, 160 meters on SSB and CW. 60 meters will be under a temporary license granted by the Brazilian Government. This DXpedition is being sponsored by Spiderbeam Antennas. QSL via PY2WAS either direct or via the bureau.

Western Sahara.

By the time that you are reading this report, Western Sahara should be more or less in full swing and the S04R (S zero 4 R) callsign should be sounding familiar. Operating will be EA1CJ, EA1KY, EA2RY, EA5RM, EA7AJR, F9IE, IN3ZNR, UT7CR and UY7CW. They plan to be on 160 through 10, SSB, CW and digital, April 12-17. QSL via EA5RM. EA5BZ will act as pilot station. There will be at least three High Power stations on the air simultaneously. They will have Icom IC-7000 rigs to Spiderbeams and an Elecraft K3 to a hex beam. There will also be a Cushcraft yagi, plus verticals for lower bands. For more info bookmark www.dxfriends.com.

Mongolia.

JH1AWN and three members of the Akita DX Association (JA7AGO, JA7LU and JA7ZP) will be QRV from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia between April 21 and April 28, 2009. They will be QRV from two locations. One will be the radio room at club station JT1KAA and other will be at the Amure Hotel. The group will be QRV on 1.8 to 50 MHz however 160 metre activity will depend on their location.

JT Call	Operator/QSL route	Modes
JT1AWN	JH1AWN	CW
JT1AGO	JA7AGO	SSB and CW
JT1LU	JA7LU	SSB, RTTY, PSK31
JT1ZP	JA7ZP	SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31

QSL the JT1 calls via their home JA calls or via the JARL QSL bureau.

IOTA News.

Now that the long Summer nights are approaching, several teams have announced their planned IOTA activations. This time of year always seems to attract some of the somewhat 'crazy' or 'foolish' perhaps as many attempt some outlandish sailings/landings and often taking life threatening risks just to activate that 'rare one'.

Take a look at this site with photos of Rockall just to see for one's self just how treacherous this can be. <http://www.therockalltimes.co.uk/2005/06/20/rockall-triumph.html>

The first week in May, we hope to hear MM0RAI/P QRV from this rare IOTA and in fact **EU-189** is the rarest IOTA in Europe. ON4ATW and a few others are hoping to be able to make a safe landing on this one and activate it for 3 days. The demand is going to be huge if they succeed. I apologise, but this is all information I have on this one at present.

GM7A will be on from Kerrera Island, Scotland, **EU-008**, during the RSGB IOTA Contest July 25-26. Operators are MM0GHM and MM0DHQ. QSL via GM7AAJ direct or bureau.

ID9N will be on Vulcano Island, Italy, **EU-017**, April 24-30. The operators are IZ0EHO and IZ0FKE. They will be on all HF bands and modes, they say. QSL to the QRZ.com info.

5P4MG and OZ7TM will be the two callsigns used from Vendsyssel-Thy/Nordjylland, **EU-171**, April 5-16. The operators will be DJ4MG and DL1TM. They will be on SSB on 160, 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 and PSK31 on 40 and 20. QSL 5P4MG to DJ4MG direct or bureau and OZ7TM to DL1TM direct or bureau.

OZ/DL2JRM and OZ/DO6XX will also be on that island, **EU-171**. Their dates are July 18-August 1. They will get into the IOTA Contest on July 25-26, operating on 80-10 CW with 100 watts into a dipole or ground plane. QSL to their home calls, direct or bureau.

OA4BHY/6 will be on La Leona Island, Peru, **SA-098**, April 10-13. They may be able to get a special callsign for the operation. They will be on all HF bands with two stations, CW and SSB. QSL via DL2JRM direct or bureau. Operators scheduled are OA4BHY, CE6TBN, HA1AG, DL5YWM and DL2JRM.

9A/OE3ZK, Gert, will be on Palagruza, **EU-090**, in the Adriatic Sea May 30-June 6. The island is a nature reserve. Food, drinking water, fuel and generator will all be taken along. He will operate on 80-6m, mostly CW but with some SSB and RTTY. Also along will be 9A/OE3WGC, Wolf. QSL via the bureau.

Seven ops will have 9A0CI on the air from Vela Palagruza Is-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

land, Croatia, **EU-090**, May 8-16. 9A2MF, 9A2WJ, 9A3KB, 9A3TA, 9A6AA, DF9MV and DL5MFL will be on SSB, CW and digital, 80-10m. QSL via DE0MST direct or bureau. They will also go to Mala Palagruza Island, also EU-090, with 9A/home call callsigns and Kamik Od Traumuntane. <http://www.inet.hr/9a6aa/iocaplan.htm>

The above listed IOTA operations should be a bit more 'positive' and all should be relatively easy to work from EI. As the summer approaches, it is worth checking the higher bands occasionally as there can be indeed propagation to somewhere waiting for you to exploit. In fact, even now, there are still frequent openings into Southern Africa in the morning time, 12m especially! 20m still is the main band of interest still providing frequent openings into various parts of the Pacific even. Most activity will probably remain on 40 & 80m for the next 2-3 months or so and these bands are still yielding good results with a lot of DX being worked. Your reports this time all support this as can be seen below.

My own log shows these following **160m** QSOs from the past term. LX7I, WN8R, E70T, MD0CCE, OZ8DX, T77C, VE2DWA, SY2V, 3V8BB, YL2SM, SV9COL, K5D, EV1R, OH0R, XE1RCS, HC2AQ, C31CT, UP2L, CU2AF, D4C, TA3FRI & 4O3A while concentrating on **80m** this term logged : C31CT, 8P5A, PJ2T, 6W1RW, VP5/W5CW, V4/G4FAL, PS0F, J38CW, ZB2CN, 3V8SS, YS1MAE, CO6LC, JT1R, 4U1UN, EA9GW, SU2MS, HK1NK, K5D, RA9LY, VK6HD, 9H5SN, MU0FAL, OX3MC, KP3S, VP8KF, D44TXS, VP2MCK, A71AN, 6Y5/WE9V, ZS1JX, LU5YF, P43A, ET3JA, TO2T, ZL7C, J70XBI, PJ7MF, ZL4OL, V25WY, EL2DX, 8P9NX, VQ9LA, 5N/LZ1QK, ZC4VJ, JW/DJ3KR, YN2TX, C6APG, VU2GSM & 9M6XRO. **30m** worked : D44TXO, K5D, VP2MPL, EA9PY, PJ5NA, VP2ETN, PZ5RA, EY8MM, GW3YDX & VP8DL. **20m** logged : JQ2VVH, VK9LA, JD1BMM, JT1T, H40FN, PS0F, 9G1AA, JD1BIE, J88DR, K5D, BX2AAL, V63MY, C6ANI, 9Z4AM, PY7ZZ & JT1BH while **17m** scooped : HZ1PS/P, R1AND, SV1AVD, M0AIA, LA5YJ, 9J2YO, TO2T, FH/G3SWH, VR2XMT, S79JF, 5B4AHJ, 7Q7BP & P40MH. A few brief openings on **12m** worked : LA5YJ, V51AS, FH/G3SWH, RA3TO, US1IU, 4Z5AO, UA6XT & ZS6BQI.

John, EI9JO sends on his log for the past period logging : M0CLG & EI0RTS on **80m**, VE1CJB, OX3KQ, SE800M, TF1JI & UA6GP on **40m**. A long list on **20m** contains : K1LLR, VP8YLB, VO1GWK, CT1EHI, UN7QF, GB2IWM, VE9AR, J42T, ER4DX, 6W/F5RAV, 5D0IPY, HI3D, K5D, 6V7P, UE9CRP, 8R1YL, 9Z4AMA, TO2T, EA8CDI, 4X4FR, YO5AM, CU2KH, YV5MSG, XE1RK, CX7TT & OZ1LCG. **17m** logged : KW7Y, LZ131GO, EA8BWL, W4VWC, G0MJS & M0AIA. Apologies to John also for omitting some of his **60m** QSOs which he was delighted with. On 60m this time he worked : W8AC, 9Z4AMA, OZ8BE, OZ1KGV, M0AFJ & K4JPE.

Declan, EI9FVB is a regular contributor as always and his large log contains these following **80m** QSOs : 9A2009OS, HE8EDL, SV5AZP, AA4MM, K5ZD, K0TV, GB5SPD & DL60CHILD while **40m** shows : 5D0IPY, KT3Y, VY2SS, W3BGN, J79XBI, CO8LY, VP9BO, PJ7/K2GSJ & HZ1FS. **20m** netted : J20SE, P40MH, C56KR, PT7VB, V5/N7UN, J5UAP, K5RQ, 5N9NDP, LZ17ARDF, Z22JE, C6ANI,

4Z4DX, TI8II, K5D, TR8CA, ZS3Y, CE2P, 8P6ER, J38AR, VP8LP, ZV75LABRE, KH6MB, 8R1AK, CO6LC, FM1HN & YV1JGT. **17m** logged : K8JTY, W5RIM, CU1EZ, VE1VOX, ZF2EI, YV4EH, KB1OWW, KU4BP, ZS6BQI, TI8II, 5H1DF, FS/WW5I, EE8AFM, V5/DL2SL, A71CW, K5D, BD5BAJ, CO8LY, CP6AA, C6AMM, HZ1FS, V55NBC, R1AND & 9J2YO. Onto **15m** netted : K5D, ZP6/SP8MRO, K5TR, VO1SA & K1TTT.

Nicky, EI9JF has had a busy period on the bands recently logging these following **160m** QSOs : MD0CCE, K5D, VP8CMH, V47KP, E77DX, KP2/K3CT & D44AC while **80m** logged : K5D, J39BS, VP2ETN, J28JA, VU2PAI, 7X5VRK, OX3KQ, MD0CCE, MU0FAL & D44TXO. **40m** netted : ZL3NB, VK3EGN, DX1S, C4W, V4/G4FAL, EA9PY, PS0F, HK6K, VU2TS, VP2MPL, S79JF, 9K48NLD, UK9AA FG/IV3CGJ/P, 4X4FC, CM3GW, LU5YF, A61NA, A71CW, YN2/EW1AR, VP8CMH, EY8MM, YY1MA, HS0ZDY, J7N, K5D, HK0/EA7HEJ, VQ9RD, PJ2/N1ZZ, PJ7/K2GSJ, YN2DD, FM/KL7WA, RA9FU, KP2/K3CT, TI2KWN, PY2MTV, C6APG, V31TB & VK9LA. **30m** worked : OY3QN, J88XF, FM5FE, KP4MS, ER2G, 5N/LZ1QK, Z30U, D4C, CU3HQ, V31YN, UN7MMM, K5D, CX9AU, 6W1SJ, KP2/K3CT, 4X4FC, UK8AR, FH/G3SWH, 4U1UN, KL7GLL, HR9/WQ7R, 6Y8XF, V63TO, VK9AA & VK9LA. **20m** logged : ZR2CR, VP8CMH, PJ4/G4IUF, J88XF, R1ANC, J7N, UA9KW, HK0/EA7HEJ, K5D, EK6TA, YV2BYT, FH/G3SWH, BD1TCC, 6W1SJ, VK8BN, JA2NVM, YB6PUP, VP8LP, VP2MPL, P49V, 4U1UN, ZP8VAO, T2UF, AN9CNP, KP4MS, PS0F & 8R1YL/P. **17m** netted : P40MH, HK0/EA7HEJ, D44AC, K5D, S79JF, VQ9JC, TO2T, 8P9NX & J5UAP.

Eoin, EI9O also sends his log for inclusion. His log includes these **20m** QSOs : CT3FT, CU2XW, CN8PA, KW7Y, ES7GM, SX7ISS, K5D, YN2TX, TU5JD, LZ17ARDF, VQ9RD, RX9KC, 4X1FC, 5Z4/DL8NBE, 6V7P, 7Q7AH, 8P6GY, 9Z4AMA, C6ATT, HC1MD, PS0F, FP/KV1J, VY2TT, SU3YM, YT1MZ, TO2T, LZ131GO, OD5NH, D44TXI, R150B, VP2MCK, CX7TT, PY2DY & VE7DQA. **17m** worked : CN8NK, K5D, K1GUN, RZ3EV, V5/DL2SL, IS0BOZ, VP8LP, ES5GP, 5H1DF, FS/WW5L, PY2VA, FM5AM, A71CT, 9K2/SP4R, C56YK, TL0A & CX/SP9MRO while **15m** worked : 5D0IPY, K4PV, LT1F, VY2TT, VP8KF, ZP8VAO & ZS1KC.

As mentioned before, the above shows that the majority of DX is being worked from 80m to 17m although there still are occasional openings on the higher bands.

Hopefully in time for the next issue, we may have reports of a few sunspots thus increasing activity on the higher bands.

2008 was the clearest year in history with having the most consecutive days of zero sunspot activity. The good news is that many experts claim that cycle 24 is going to be the best one yet! We live in hope.

Until next time, best DX to you all and hope many work and support those planned DXpeditions mentioned here.

As always, my sincere thanks to Bernie, W3UR of the 'Daily DX' who kindly allows reproduction or information to be extracted from his valuable pages.

Take a look at <http://www.dailydx.com> where a 2 week free trial and sample can be obtained.

Thanks also to all for their log extracts.

Good DX, vy 73 de Dave, EI9FBB

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

On Wednesday the 4th March, a well attended AGM of Dundalk Amateur Radio Society took place at the Headquarters in 113 Castletown Road, Dundalk.

The meeting was opened by Chairman, Thos EI2JD. Thos gave a warm welcome to all members old and new and gave a detailed breakdown of activities over the last 12 months, detailing the events on a monthly basis.

Next on the agenda was a report from Jim MI3SBI, treasurer of the Society. Jim outlined the income and expenditure and all were satisfied that the Society was in a sound financial position.

There was no Secretary's report as our secretary has moved away and was not available to attend the meeting.

Next on the agenda was the election of new officers for the year ahead.

Thos EI2JD, was elected unanimously, with Jim MI3SBI, similarly reinstated, as Treasurer.

The position of Secretary was filled after two proposals and seconders when one nominee withdrew, through pressure of work, and the position of Secretary went to Peter EI4HX, with unanimous approval from all attending. Peter had been secretary of the society for several years previously.

Richard MI3CQR, our technical guru, then came in for generous praise, not only for the new 2 metre repeater on Claremont Cairn, but also for the setting up of the website ei7dar.com, which provides live streaming on line from the repeater to the internet, as well as a source of information for related activity.

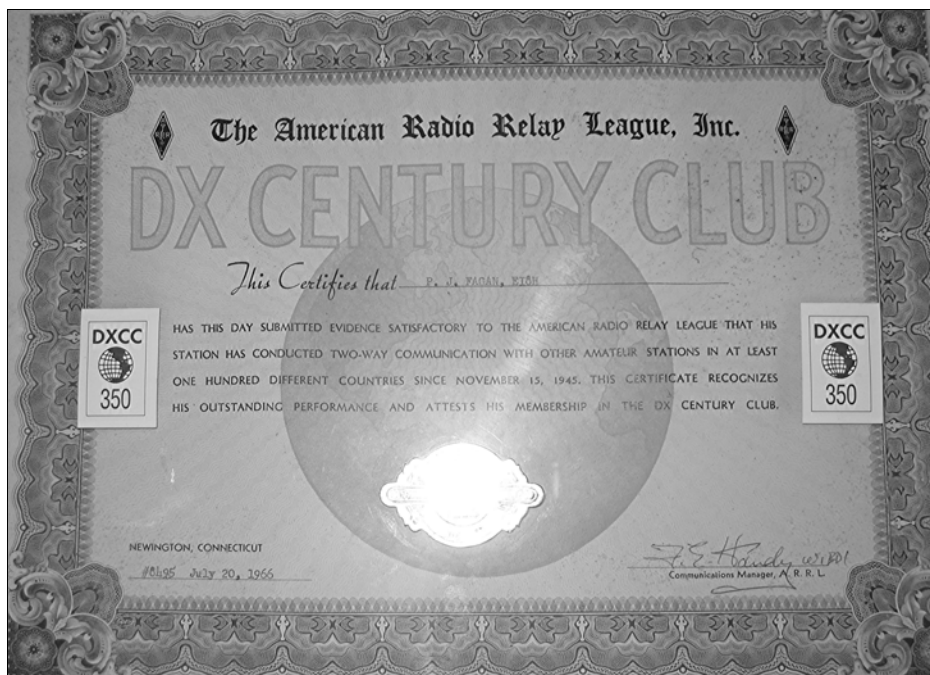
All this being done, the Chairman asked was the time right for the nomination of a new President, as the previous President Pat EI5DA, was now a silent key. Two long term members of the society were present, who were among the founders of the society in 1969, Jim Bellew, EI4BX and Tom Mc Dermott, EI9CJ.

Both Tom and Jim were nominated for president of DARS.

Jim EI4BX was elected by a narrow margin.

After the excitement died down, the discussion then turned to activities for the coming year.

Peter EI4HX. Hon Sec. DARS



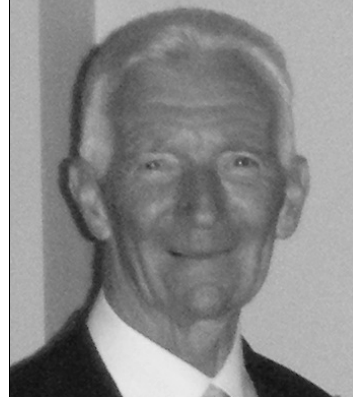
EI8H Exceeds 350

Pat Fagan EI8H has been officially recognised by the ARRL as the first EI amateur radio experimenter to exceed 350 DXCC entities worked.

Congratulations to Pat on a huge achievement that spans 45 years.

EI8H gained his license in 1964 and in 1966 obtained his DX Century Club award.

Growing up in Longford, I have vivid memories of helping Pat keep the many antennas off the ground on his wire farm outside Granard, especially on those cold winter evenings, repairing open wire feeders and erecting new wire beams for the rare DX stations.



Speaking to Pat recently I asked him what were some of the highlights of the many years in Amateur Radio. These included working the Yemen 4W1G in 1965, 8Z4 & 8Z5 in 1980, Geyser Reef AC0A/GR, AbuAil OE6XG/A and Glorioso Island FR0ACC.

Pat is also confirmed as the first European station to work India on 160m and first EI to work Japan on 160m.

Pat achieved Worked All States on 160m which includes KL7Y & KH6CC and for those of us who know 160m these 2 contacts can be a once in a lifetime achievement. 80 and 160m are Pat's main bands of choice and Pat holds over 275 confirmed 160m contacts, for most DX'ers holding this across all the bands would be a fair achievement.

Over Pat's 45 years on Amateur Radio all his antenna's and beams were home made from P&T copper wire.

Once again well done Pat on achieving 352 countries worked, Keep up the DX'ing.
73 from Eoin Fagan EI9O

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Bureau Manager:

Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,
Rathlin, Kilcrohane, Co. Cork.
ei8jk@amsat.org

Oranmore Castle Activation by Galway VHF Group

2009 saw the launch of the Irish chapter of the CASHOTA organisation. The CASHOTA organisation is dedicated to bringing to people's attention our heritage in the Castles and Stately homes of the UK and Ireland through the medium of Amateur Radio.

Oranmore Castle, current residence of World War II Submarine Commander and twice circumnavigator of the Globe, Commander Bill King, was chosen as the inaugural activation and designated EI/001/C for the event.

The date set for this activation was March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, as it was decided that this would be a date of interest to international as well as domestic stations wishing to work the Castle.

The days immediately preceding, saw the building of a number of antennas for portable use, including dipoles for use on 80m and 40m and a Moxon Rectangle for use on the 20m band. Many thanks go to Mark EI6GUB for manufacturing the drive-on plate and Moxon mast coupler, and thanks also to Liam, EI6GXB for assisting in the tuning of the antennas.

On the day, setup was completed by 0800 and by 0830, we had our first contact in the bag. 80m had gotten quite noisy by about 10, so, by 1030, it was decided to QSY to the 40m band.

Help in pulling down the 80m dipole and erecting the 40m dipole was given by our guest for the day, Udo DJ5UL and in no time, we were QRV on 40. Within about 20 minutes, we had found out niche on the band and were making plenty of contacts, both locally in the UK and Ireland, and further afield to France, Germany, Sweden and many more. The nature of the event meant that many of the contacts were quite causal, with St. Patrick's Day greetings being exchanged all round.

By the early afternoon, it was decided that it was time to try out the Moxon to see what DX we could muster. Within 10 minutes of getting the beam up and pointed west, Liam, EI6GXB had raised out first DX contact, in VE land. For the next few hours, we logged contacts in the US, Russia, Poland, and many other eastern European countries.

It was deemed a highly successful first activation by all involved, and the many curious passers-by also agreed that this was a very interesting, if (for them) slightly unusual way to spend St. Patrick's Day.

Gerry Kavanagh EI8DRB



Oranmore Castle with the 40m dipole in foreground



Gerry, EI8DRB working some DX



Steve EI5DD greets guest for the day, Udo DJ5UL

International Marconi Day

Saturday, April 25th marks the 135th anniversary of the birth of Marconi.

To mark the occasion the Cornish Radio Amateur Club will be holding its 22nd annual International Marconi Day event and many stations with historic connections with Marconi will be active on that date.

This is not a contest but several classes of awards are available for making QSOs with the special Award Stations. There are also SWL awards to be claimed.

Howth Martello Radio Group

The Howth Martello Radio Group (EI0MAR) is an Award Station and will be QRV during the event from the vintage radio museum in Howth.

This is a twenty-four hour event but EI0MAR will concentrate activities from 9am until 5pm local time and visitors will be welcome during those hours.

To coincide with the special event, the North Dublin Radio Club will hold its weekly meeting at the same QTH from 8pm the same evening. EI0MAR's web site is www.ei0mar.org.

For more information about the event including a listing of award stations visit www.gb4imd.org.uk.

South Dublin Radio Club

The club elected the following Committee at it's recent AGM.

Tom McGrath, EI7HT
Jim Holohan, EI4HH
Paul Eustace, EI2GSB
Dave Court, EI3IO
Daniel Cussen, EI9FHB
Jim Armstrong, EI8JR
Nicky Mullally, EI9JF

Upcoming talks at South Dublin Radio Club:

28th April
Television production techniques.
by Jim Holohan EI4HH

11th May
Logbook of the World & EQSL.cc
by Dave Court EI3IO

The clubs website is:
Southdublinradioclub.ie which has directions and meeting locations.

Guglielmo Marconi: 'Telecommunication Heritage'

Ita Marguet, January 2009

On 26 September 2008 a unique ceremony took place in Salvan, Switzerland, in honour of Guglielmo Marconi's first experiments in wireless telegraphy in this Swiss Alpine town in 1895.

For the first time in its history, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), based in Geneva, has recognised a particular site for its invaluable contribution in the 'Telecommunication Heritage'.

In the presence of many dignitaries including Princess Elettra Marconi Giovanelli, daughter of **Guglielmo Marconi**, the Salvan-Marconi Foundation in association with ITU, an agency of the United Nations, placed a plaque in recognition of Salvan's contribution to 'Telecommunication Heritage'.

It commemorates the first wireless transmission beyond 1.5 kilometres between Salvan and Les Marecottes in Valais, Switzerland.

Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937)

Of Irish and Italian parentage, as a young man Marconi developed a passion for the sciences and studied physics at the technical institute of Livorno and the University of Bologna.

He spent the summer of 1895 in Salvan, Switzerland.

The story told in 1968 by Maurice Gay-Balmaz of Salvan who, as a youth, had helped Marconi with some of his earliest wireless experiments in the vicinity of the mountain village brought renown to Salvan that has continued until today.

The Association mondiale des ingénieurs (IEEE) granted a "Historical Milestone in Electrical Engineering and Computing" to the site. In the presence of a number of dignitaries, IEEE Past President placed a commemorative bronze plaque on 26 September 2003 at La Pierre Bergère or the Shepherdess Stone in Salvan.

Marconi's experiments and worldwide achievements are widely documented in technical and professional literature including bibliographies and book collection on the many aspects of his life.

He received honorary doctorates from several universities and many other international honours and awards.

In 1909 with Karl Ferdinand Braun, he shared the Nobel Prize in Physics for important radio communications.

Marconi Day is celebrated on 25 April, the date of his birth in 1874. He died in Rome on 20 July 1937. A two-minute silence was observed on radio waves worldwide to commemorate the inventor of the first practical wireless telegraphy who became known as "Father of Radio".

Telecommunication Heritage

An important delegation of the International Telecommunications Union visited the site on 9 September 2007 under the guidance of Dr. Hamadoum Touré, ITU Secretary General.

He declared "*Coming to Salvan is in fact a pilgrimage. As an engineer in satellite communications and ITU Secretary General, it is a privilege for me. Tomorrow's world will be more and more placed under the sign of Hertzian communications and the great inventor*

Marconi will remain forever a guide for all of us."

On 26 September 2008, the local population and visitors were encouraged to participate in the celebratory event to honour Salvan. It included a scientific colloquium with lectures by experts in radio communications, historians and engineers with a large attendance and also a social gathering.

They were encouraged to visit a new exhibition at the Salvan Marconi Museum and walk along the marked Marconi trail that begins at the museum and ends at the house in the village where he stayed.

In the presence of ITU representatives and dignitaries from the scientific, cultural, diplomatic and political worlds, the official ceremony to place the French language plaque concluded the programme.

The following is a translation:

The International Telecommunications Union (UIT/ITU) recognises the Commune of Salvan (Switzerland) and its site of Pierre Bergère as a cradle of telecommunications.

In 1895 Guglielmo Marconi realised his first transmissions TST to more than 1.5 kms linking Salvan and Marecottes.

For this, the ITU renders homage to the invaluable contribution to this site as telecommunications patrimony.

**Dr. H. Touré Secretary General, ITU Geneva,
September 2008**

Note: Acknowledgement is given to all sources used in preparation of this text. It follows published articles on **Wireless telegraphy:** Switzerland and Ireland, **Ireland and Wireless Telegraphy** "Wavelengths of time", **Salvan: Cradle of Wireless:** Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937), by Ita Marguet (2004, 2005, 2006).

DA5TOR to QSY Due to New IARU Region-1 Band Plan.

The AMTOR-mailbox "DA5TOR", SELCALL "ATOR" has moved its 40m access frequency in order to comply with the new IARU Region-1 band plan on 29th of March.

The new frequencies are 7047 kHz, 7049 kHz and 7051 kHz. The access frequencies on the other bands remain unchanged and still allow worldwide access.

All frequencies and technical details of the mailbox can be found on;

www.amtor.de

The new 40 metre activity-centre for AMTOR is 7042 kHz for direct connections.



Excerpt from the HX files

An April Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX - Excerpt 004

Hello and welcome to extract 004 from my files . This file is about ATV/m and before I go on.....

With the amount of government advertisements for the last few years telling us it is illegal to operate / mobile with a phone or a microphone, (and I am sure a camcorder) in your hand, you should have both hands on the steering wheel at all times, unless using other parts of the car (ie the gears and indicators to name just two) . There are plenty of hands free kits for phones and radios available and a lot cheaper than a fine and /or a funeral .

As you should know the most dangerous part of any car is.....
THE NUT BEHIND THE WHEEL.

After a talk about my QTH may not be a good one for ATV, as it is close to a hill in the north direction and other blockages to the south, I asked Michael EI5GG and the late Dermot EI2AK, did any of the gear work on 12 volts and when I was told that everything was available in 12 volts I said that's good as I could always go portable or mobile. .

Portable and mobile on ATV sounded good to me if my QTH was as bad as I was been told . But as I said in previous files I could do quite a bit of ATV from home so I was happy with that for awhile. A few rallies later I had a bit of 12 volt equipment gathered and I said it was time to look at /portable and /mobile again .

Rigging any vehicle for the amateur radio hobby is not any easy task thanks to the design of the modern car interior, so fitting a camera or two and hiding the antenna coax, the dc and video and audio leads and a monitor could be messy. I did think of calling MTV and EXZBIT to pimp my ride but I said I would do it myself.

Instead of putting a camera on the dashboard, as it would be a distraction I decided to put a camera on the towing eye on the front of the car and as I would also go ATV/M at night I used an infrared camera. With it so low to the road it should give an interesting view and a small camera with its own remote control pan and tilt on the back shelf of the car looking out the back or it could be turned to face front and it could give an over the shoulder look.

Looking at the TV while driving is never a good thing even using an infrared camera with the car head lights off, you are not a Terminator and if you crash you may not be back and it could be hasta la viva baby. I used a portable DVD player connected to the receiver board to listen to my TX video and audio. I did not use an aerial as I could see and hear myself as



the RX unit was only a few meters from the aerial and it was a good judge that I was getting out .

Fitting the slot aerial to the roof rack was an easy fix, with a clamp to the side of the roof rack and connecting an N type elbow connector to the slot aerial so I could attach the TX unit . Top picture shows the aerials and camera. The middle picture shows the infrared camera and bracket attached to the front towing eye on my car, the towing eye is only 13 inches (33cms)

above the road. The bottom pictures shows the internal camera and its remote control pan unit .



Of course you have to be very careful with cable routing, making sure you stay away from the exhaust pipe and any spinning parts of the cars engine, if you take the under the bonnet (hood) route.

As I was travelling on my own I put the cables under the bonnet and from under the bonnet through the door seals.

I had checked with an off cut of cable to see how tight or loose the cable was first to make sure there would be no binding of the

cable and that may cause the cable to short out and start a fire.

Other cables, like the coax came in through one of the back windows, wound down enough to let the coax and the transmitter dc and phono leads for the internal camera out (and some times the rain in).

I have a dc distribution box wired direct to the car battery through the firewall.

Looking something like the car out of Ghostbusters with the various aerials and some times the pan and tilt unit. (I am sure I made a few people rush to the post office to pay their TV licence the next day). If you do buy one of the Alford slot aerials you can rest assured that they stand up to a sustained storm winds of at least 70 mph (115 ish kph) for at least an hour and a half, that is how long the trip took me.

I made a few trips like that over last year in all kinds of weather and the results varied greatly.

The type of aerials I used on my mobile experiment were a slot aerial, a 12 element loop aerial and a circular polarised aerial, (clockwise rotation, 20 turns), all were terminated with an N type connector and I used the same piece of coax FSJ4 - 50B. Andrews Helix 122 inches, (310 cms) long and fitted with brass N connectors.

Thanks again to Thos EI2JD for taking the pictures for me.

In the next Echo Ireland we will look at some of the test equipment I use on the Microwave bands.

73 to you all and may all your transmissions be 5 and 9.

Pat EI2HX .



Amateur Radio Emergency Network Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2008 in €

	Note	
Income	1	
Gifts and Donations	2	
Cash		425.12
Non-cash		2,560.63
Total Income		<u>2,985.75</u>
Expense	1	
Equipment	2, 3	2,500.00
Hire of Facilities		25.00
Bank Fees		4.80
Website	2	113.75
Total Expense		<u>2,643.55</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit) of Funds		342.20
Funds at 01/01/08	4	0.00
Funds at 31/12/08	4	<u>342.20</u>

Amateur Radio Emergency Network Notes to Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2008

General

Amateur Radio Emergency Network ('AREN') is the voluntary public service emergency radio communications network run by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society ('IRTS'). AREN operates under the organisation of and as part of the IRTS and has the legal status of 'unincorporated society.'

1 Accounting Policies

Accounts are prepared on a cash basis. Therefore, income and expense items are recognized in the year they are received/purchased, even if an item applies to a different year. Equipment purchased or acquired through donation is expensed fully in the year it is acquired even if its useful life is expected to extend beyond the year it was placed in service.

2 Gifts and Donations

Gifts of equipment and supplies donated to AREN are recognized both as non-cash income and as expense for equipment, using the actual cost of the equipment if new or the estimated fair value if not new. Gifts of services such as website hosting fees are also recognized as both income and expense using the actual cost of the service.

3 Equipment

A trailer with an estimated fair value of €2,500 was donated to AREN in November 2008. Equipment purchases to upgrade the trailer and donations of supplies and other equipment began in early 2009 and will be recognised in that year.

4 Cash Balances

Accounts with Bank of Ireland and PayPal (Europe) S.à.r.l. & Cie, S.C.A. were established during the year in May and September, respectively. A cash gift was held by the National Co-ordinator before establishment of these accounts.

	Bank of Ireland Account	PayPal Account	Total Cash Balance
Balance at 01/01/08	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
Balance at 31/12/08	€247.00	€95.20	€342.20

Amateur Radio and Hillwalking

Those who want to combine amateur radio with hillwalking can get involved in the Summits On The Air ("SOTA") programme. SOTA is a bit like IOTA, with hills and mountains replacing islands. It is designed to encourage portable operation in mountainous areas, and there are awards for activators, who ascend to the summits, and chasers, who either operate from home, a local hilltop or are activators on other summits.

More than 20 countries are currently involved in the SOTA programme, including Ireland - North and South. There are 387 eligible summits in EI (of which more than 50 have been activated) and 66 eligible summits in GI (of which 36 have been activated). More details, including a list of eligible summits and a lot more, can be found at www.qsl.net/sotaei and www.sota.org.uk

With a view to encouraging more SOTA activity, an International SOTA Weekend is to be held on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May 2009. It is hoped that this event will see many summit-to-summit contacts between different SOTA associations, and give chasers the chance to work activators from several different DXCC entities.

Shannon Basin Radio Club

The Shannon Basin Radio Club held its AGM recently.

The new committee is as follows;

Chairman	Pat EI9HX,
Secretary	Brian EI8IU,
Joint treasurers	Fergus EI6IB and Brian EI8IU
PRO	Pat EI9HX,
QSL Manager	Mickey EI5EAB.

Thanks to the outgoing committee and a warm welcome to our new members.

The Shannon Basin Club is hosting this years IRTS AGM weekend at the Shamrock Lodge Hotel in Athlone and we look forward to meeting you there, especially at the IRTS Annual Dinner on Saturday night April 25th.

The Saga of Seven (MHz)

By Sean Nolan EI7CD

March 29th 2009 was an historic day for radio amateurs, but particularly for those in Regions 1 and 3 of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

On that day, the band segment 7100-7200 kHz became an amateur primary allocation as a result of a decision taken at WRC-03. For the first time in 50 years radio amateurs in these Regions had a primary allocation above 7100 kHz and the band 7000-7200 kHz became an exclusive amateur allocation.

This change did not happen by chance and it is worth looking at the history of the 40 metre band to show how it was brought about by the persistent and coordinated efforts of the IARU at both national and international level.

Washington 1927

To start the story we must go back to the International Radiotelegraph Conference in Washington in 1927.

This was the first major conference of the International Radiotelegraph Union held after the potential of the short waves for long distance communication had been demonstrated by amateurs/experimenters.

This was an historic conference in a number of ways, amateur radio was legally recognised for the first time, frequency bands were allocated to it internationally and a system of international call signs was introduced.

For our purposes here we need only concentrate on the 40 metre band where 7000-7300 kHz was granted as an exclusive worldwide amateur allocation.

The IARU which had been formed in Paris in 1925 was represented at this conference, essentially by the ARRL which had been founded in 1914.

In fact the US government delegation at the conference played a significant role in securing the 300 kHz exclusive amateur allocation at 7 MHz. The allocation was defended and maintained at the **Madrid Conference in 1932**.

Cairo 1938

Six years later at the ITU Conference in Cairo in 1938, radio amateurs did not fare so well.

Amateurs in the Americas (ITU Region 2) retained the full 300 kHz exclusive amateur allocation but those in the rest of the world had to share the 7200-7300 kHz segment with broadcasting.

The use of this segment for broadcasting outside the Americas inevitably had a negative influence on the usefulness of this 100 kHz to amateurs in ITU Region 2.

Atlantic City 1947

No International Conferences were held during the years of World War II. There were hopes the ITU Conference to be held in Atlantic City in 1947 would restore the 1927 exclusive worldwide amateur allocation of 300 kHz.

However, the political situation between East and West had worsened and broadcasting outside the Americas was allowed to expand down to 7100 kHz.

The segment between 7100 and 7150 kHz was to be shared between amateurs and broadcasting and the segment 7150-7300 kHz became exclusively broadcasting outside of ITU Region 2. This was a disastrous outcome for amateur radio.

In twenty years a 300 kHz band that had been exclusively amateur worldwide had been halved outside the Americas with the top 50 kHz shared with broadcasting.

The 300 kHz amateur exclusive had become 100 kHz exclusive in ITU Regions 1 and 3 due to pressure from the broadcasting service.

Geneva 1959

The final blow was struck fifty years ago in 1959 at the ITU Conference in Geneva when the shared 50 kHz went exclusively to broadcasting leaving 300 kHz amateur exclusive in the Americas and 100 kHz exclusive amateur in the rest of the world.

As it turned out it was going to be a long uphill struggle back and there were no significant developments in the next twenty years.

WARC 1979

In 1979, the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC-79), with a proposal from the United States for a worldwide amateur allocation of 6950-7250 kHz raised hopes in amateur circles of some improvement at 7 MHz.

The result, however, was disappointing. Not only did matters not improve in ITU Regions 1 and 3 but the Americas in Region 2 almost lost the segment 7100-7300 kHz.

On the positive side IARU efforts at this conference secured three new amateur allocations at 10, 18 and 24 MHz, the so-called WARC Bands.

Torremolinas 1992

The United States at the Torremolinas Conference in 1992 again tried to secure a worldwide amateur exclusive allocation of 6900-7200 kHz as part of a package of proposals involving an expansion of broadcasting allocations.

There was not sufficient support for the US proposals and the outcome was a recommendation that a future competent World Radiocommunications Conference should consider the possibility of aligning the allocations to the amateur service around 7 MHz, with due regard to the requirements of other services.

Istanbul 2000

Eight years later, WRC-2000 in Istanbul recommended that consideration of the realignment of the allocations to the amateur, amateur satellite and broadcasting services around 7 MHz on a worldwide basis be placed on the agenda for WRC-2003.

In the light of this recommendation the IARU in association with its Member Societies launched a worldwide campaign to seek to ensure a favourable outcome from WRC-03 for the amateur service. An excellent twenty-two page booklet on 'Amateur Service Spectrum Requirements at 7 MHz' was produced and widely circulated by the IARU.

The purpose of this booklet was to coordinate the campaign by National IARU Societies with their Administrations as well as to inform decision makers of the background and functions of

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

the amateur service and its spectrum requirements at 7 MHz.

The amateur service was seeking a return to an exclusive world-wide allocation of 300 kHz in the vicinity of 7 MHz. This was a return to the pre Cairo 1938 position which was in effect a return to the position seventy-six years previously at the outcome of the 1927 Washington Conference.

Geneva 2003

Hopes were high, perhaps too high, that this could be achieved when WRC-03 opened in Geneva on 9 June 2003.

It became evident as the conference proceeded that this target was over ambitious and that there was too much opposition to a worldwide allocation of 300 kHz to the amateur service.

There were countries that favoured granting an extra 200 kHz of spectrum to amateurs in ITU Regions 1 and 3 so as to align the allocation with that available in ITU Region 2.

There were other countries who could only agree to a partial alignment with Region 2 by granting an extra 100 kHz to Regions 1 and 3 and of course there were those who advocated no change and wished the status quo to be maintained.

It would seem on the face of it that a compromise was obvious and should be easily achieved. Arriving at a solution proved nearly impossible.

To show how close it came to not being solved the compromise was not finally approved until the morning of 3 July 2003 – the last effective working day of the conference.

Under the compromise the conference agreed to shift broadcasting stations in ITU Regions 1 and 3 out of the segment 7100-7200 kHz by 29 March 2009 and to reallocate it to the amateur service in these Regions.

Thus the exclusive amateur allocation in ITU Regions 1 and 3 was to double within a reasonable time frame of six years and the 300 kHz exclusive amateur allocation in ITU Region 3 was preserved.

This was a significant achievement and is further proof, if such were needed, of the benefits of the coordinated, consistent and concerted effort by organised amateur radio through the IARU.

Strong representative National Member Societies are the bedrock from which the IARU derives its authoritative representational role.

All who have the best interests of amateur radio at heart should support the work of the IARU by being members of their National Society.

Much of the information in this short article is acknowledged to an 'It Seems to Us' piece entitled 'Fixing 40 Metres' by Dave Sumner K1ZZ and published in QST, to the IARU booklet referred to and to information on the early days passed on to me by John EI7BV.



North Dublin Radio Club, Theory Classes.

North Dublin Radio Club, EI0NDR, are running theory classes for anyone wishing to sit the Radio Exterminators Licensing Exam.

For details email Tony EI6EQB at tonyfay@eircom.net

Free Contest Mapping Tool Updated

Some exciting news about **EI8IC**'s unique Contest Log Mapping Tool - its now completely FREE to use, and its just been updated with the results of 35 new contests.

Working from an online database of about 970,000 W/VE callsigns past and present, LogView plots the QSOs in a Cabrillo-format contest-log on to one of 8 different maps of North America.

Essentially a post-contest log-visualisation tool for analysing contest performance, LogView is also useful in defining gaps in your antenna coverage, by comparing the positions of entrants to the contest against those entrants actually contacted.

To start using LogView on your own contest logs, visit: <http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/logview>

You can step through the log manually, or animate the contest at a range of speeds and watch QSOs build up in the order that you made them.

Each spot can be annotated with a callsign-label, and you can keep a running check of Multipliers worked, position - distance - bearing information for each QSO, and a variety of other information, whilst choosing which bands are currently displayed.

All the maps you create can be saved for offline viewing and detailed future analysis - full details on the website.

The following contests are supported by LogView:
ARRL-10, ARRL-160, ARRL-DX-CW, ARRL-DX-SSB, ARRL-RTTY, ARRL-SS-CW, ARRL-SS-SSB, ARRL-VHF-JAN, ARRL-VHF-JUN, ARRL-VHF-SEP, ARRL-UHF-AUG, CQ-160-CW, CQ-160-SSB, CQ-WPX-CW, CQ-WPX-RTTY, CQ-WPX-SSB, CQ-VHF, CQ-WW-CW, CQ-WW-RTTY, CQ-WW-SSB, IARU-HF, NAQP-CW, NAQP-RTTY, NAQP-SSB, RSGB-IOTA, Stew-Perry, TARA-RTTY.

LogView also has a separate, dedicated Results-Viewer, that lets you create a map of the published contest results for any one of over 120 different contests, and compare them to the results of other contests in the database.

To start using LogView on your own contest logs, visit: <http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/logview>

73s Tim Makins EI8IC

Contester Tips and Resources, Ham Map Heaven.
<http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic>

IRTS Meeting with the Communications Regulator

February 12th 2009

A very constructive meeting took place between representatives of ComReg and IRTS on Thursday, 12 February. The Society was represented by Paul EI2CA, Seán EI4GK and Seán EI7CD.

The meeting covered the following wide range of issues;

Lifetime Licences

- The necessary revisions to the Regulations to give effect to lifetime licences have been completed and the target commencement date is 20 April next
- Renewals after that date will be invoiced with the €30 lifetime licence fee and a lifetime licence will be issued
- New applicants after that date, including those who have let their call signs lapse, will pay a fee of €100
- Consideration is being given to accepting renewal applications under the existing arrangements up to a date in the relatively near future. This would also allow those who have lost their original call signs a once off opportunity to apply for their re-instatement. If this is agreed, we will bring you the details as soon as we can.

5 MHz

- The present permits will expire on the expiry date of the associated licence and an application will be required for continuance
- This can take the form of a letter sent to ComReg at the time of the payment of the licence fee
- An application on the appropriate ComReg form will only be required where a variation in the terms of the original permit is being sought

Additional Power

- No general increase in power levels is to be granted for the present
- It was agreed that the Society would make an application for a general increase in power for the duration of a list of specified International Contests
- For special event stations or for particular experiments it is proposed that above a certain power threshold (which has yet to be defined by ComReg) then the Test and Trial licence provisions will apply

Maritime Mobile

- Any operation on water requires an application to ComReg
- If it is clear from the application that operation will be on a river or lake and the maritime mobile would not be appropriate then the permission will be for /M and not /MM
- Application for all of the recognised bands at present power levels may be made.

The actual bands and power level granted will depend on consultation, where considered necessary, with the Department of Transport which is responsible for maritime safety.

Representation

- It is accepted that IRTS has a role in representing the views of experimenters and due weight will be given to its views
- A formal meeting will be held at least once a year between ComReg and IRTS. Other meetings can be held if necessary
- Agreed that IRTS review existing ComReg published documentation in the light of the necessity to revise some of this in the context of lifelong licences.

500 kHz

- The general position of ComReg is that it will consider the allocation of spectrum around 500 kHz on the basis of a common European position
- However, in the light of developments internationally on 500 kHz, it was agreed that a limited number of permissions would be granted here
- This will be achieved by a Test and Trial licence issued to IRTS under which a limited number of experimenters, both members and non members of IRTS, would be granted permission to operate on 500 kHz
- The detailed arrangements have to be worked out and we will keep you informed of developments.
(see page 26)

7 and 10 MHz

- The segment 7100 to 7200 kHz will be upgraded to 'amateur primary' with effect from 29 March next
- At the same time the modes on 10 MHz will be revised to permit modes with bandwidths of less than 500 Hz to be used above 10140 kHz

3400 to 3410 MHz

- ComReg is not prepared to grant facilities to experimenters in this band

Automated Stations

- Licences will issue shortly for repeaters on the basis of the call sign formats set out in ComReg document 08/58R of 6 October.
This is available on the ComReg website at www.comreg.ie
- Consideration is being given to leaving the call signs of the beacon stations as they are at present

The society would like to thank the officials in ComReg Licensing Operations for their constructive approach to this meeting which resulted in significant progress on a range of issues of interest to experimenters generally.

Society members with queries on regulatory issues are welcome to contact the IRTS Committee through any officer or committee member. See page 2 for contact details.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The Annual General Meeting of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group took place on Monday February 23rd 2009. The meeting was addressed by outgoing chairperson, John McCarthy EI8JA and an overview of the clubs activities in 2008 were given by outgoing secretary, Mark Wall EI7IS and Michael Hoban EI5DCB highlighted the clubs finances.

The following committee were elected for the coming year:

Chairperson: Francis Lenane, EI5GOB.
Vice Chairperson Nicky Madigan, EI3JB.
Secretary Declan Fitzgerald, EI5GRB
Treasurer Michael Hoban, EI5DCB.

The Public Relations Officer is Mark Wall, EI7IS and the following officers were elected; John Ronan, EI7IG, Eddie Steadman, EI9DJB and John McCarthy, EI8JA. Congratulations to the new committee members.

Please note that going forward, all general meetings will take place at the slightly later time of 8.30 p.m. on the last Monday of each month in the usual venue of the Roanmore Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford.

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network



Pictured above is Jimmy Kelly EI2GCB (on left) receiving the 2008 overall Mayo clubs contest winner's award from David Hatfield EI3ECB, the clubs Public Relations Officer.

The club holds monthly contests for all members and the prize is awarded to the person with the most points based on the best ten results in the contest year.

The club acknowledges the generous support of Gary O'Hanlon of South East Communications and Raymond Long of Long Communications for their continued support in sponsoring the annual award.

The club meets at The Welcome Inn Hotel, Castlebar on the first Wednesday of each month at 2130 and new members are always welcomed.

Photo by Padraic Baynes EI9JA.

Cork Radio Club



IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS made his last official club visit to his home club, Cork Radio Club, as he comes to the end of his three year term of office.

Pictured above, seated: Club Chairman Con EI7DJB, Finbarr EI1CS, Tony Stack EI9ID.

Standing: John EI8HS, Vincent EI7HN, Frank EI6EVB John EI3EC, Dick EI8HH.

Cork Radio Club held its Annual General Meeting recently and the following officers were elected:

Cathaoirleach; Con EI7DJB
Cuntasoir; Dick EI6HH
Runai; Frank EI6EVB

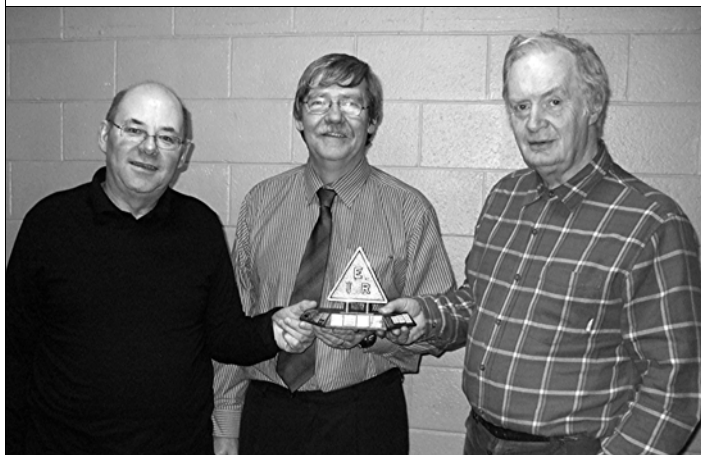
Committee Members:

John EI8HS, Vincent EI7HN, Finbarr EI1CS and Tony EI9ID.

The club meets every Monday evening at the Cork Foyer on Assumption Road in Blackpool.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Dublin VHF News Readers get the EI7AHB Award at NDR



Tony EI6EQB (centre) Hon. Chairman of North Dublin Radio Club presents the Ray McCabe EI7AHB club trophy to Tony EI5EM and John EI7JG for services to amateur radio by volunteering to read the IRTS two-metre news from Dublin on Sunday mornings since the death of Sean EI5GH the previous newsreader.



Covering all Bases...Well Almost!

Nested Dipoles

By Tony EI5EM

Some time ago I wrote an article describing the nested dipole. This time I am going to describe how building two separate nested dipoles can cover all of the HF bands from 3.5 to 28 Megahertz with high efficiency on each band.

The impedance at the feed point of a half-wave dipole is about 70 Ohms and the formula for calculating the total length in feet is $468/\text{frequency (in MHz)}$. The table below shows dipole lengths for various frequencies. The third column shows the frequency at which the same lengths are also resonant as one and a half wavelength dipoles on relevant HF bands.

Excluding top-band, there are eight HF amateur bands, as shown in the table above. Many amateurs try to cover as many of the bands as possible with a single antenna. The G5RV is an antenna that is often used as an all-band antenna. It, and other similar antennas, will operate on all bands with an ATU, but efficiency on some bands will be low.

However, Bill Orr (W6SAI) in his HF Antenna Handbook states; *"The bottom line is that the G5RV design functions on all amateur bands between 80 and 10 meters, with the exception of 10, 21 and 24 MHz. SWR isn't really low on any band, despite some claims."*

Fundamental Freq (MHz)	Length in feet half-wave wire dipole	1.5 wave dipole same length (MHz)	Antenna A or B	Half wave in Free Space (feet)
1.83	255.7	-	-	268.7
3.52	133	10.6	A	139.7
7.05	66.4	21.14	A	69.8
10.11	46.3	30.33	B	48.6
14.1	33.2	-	A	34.9
21.1	22.2	-	-	23.3
18.08	25.9	-	B	27.2
24.9	18.8	-	B	19.75
28.6	16.4	-	-	17.2

A more efficient solution is to use two separate nested dipoles A and B (as per table), each with three separate half-wave dipoles fed in parallel at the centre. The theory of operation of the antenna is that, on any particular band, one of the three dipoles will present a near 70 Ohm load to the transmitter and will therefore absorb most of the transmitted power. The power absorbed by the other two dipoles will be negligible. As far as the transmitter is concerned, it will only see the resonant dipole.

I mentioned earlier that there are eight HF bands that concern us, yet we are only using six dipoles to cover them all. The explanation for this is that a half-wave dipole at a particular frequency is also a one and a half wave dipole at a third of that frequency. It will therefore present near 70 Ohm impedance at both frequencies. From the table above, you see that a 66.4 foot dipole is resonant on 7 and 21 Megahertz. There is no need to have a separate 21 MHz dipole.

Similarly, with the 10.1 MHz band it will be resonant just above the 28 MHz band. However, it is possible to operate on 28 MHz using this set-up. Therefore, by the use of six dipoles in two arrays, all eight bands from 7 to 28 MHz can be covered efficiently. If the 3.5 MHz band was not included, only five dipoles would be needed.

Looking at the table again, you will note that the 3.5 MHz antenna is also resonant at 10.6 MHz, just outside the 10.1 MHz. This may prove useful too.

It is important, when constructing nested dipoles, that no two dipoles resonant at the same frequency are fed by the same feeder, as this defeats the purpose. For example, you would not feed a dipole for 7 MHz and a separate dipole for 21 MHz from the same feeder, as the 7 MHz dipole is already resonant on 21 MHz (see table). The right-hand column of the table shows my suggested bands and dipole lengths for two antennas A and B.

As the described nested dipoles are near resonance on each band, they can be fed with lightweight 70 Ohm twin feeder with only small feeder losses. The combination, as described, will far out-perform any single dipole multi-band antenna.

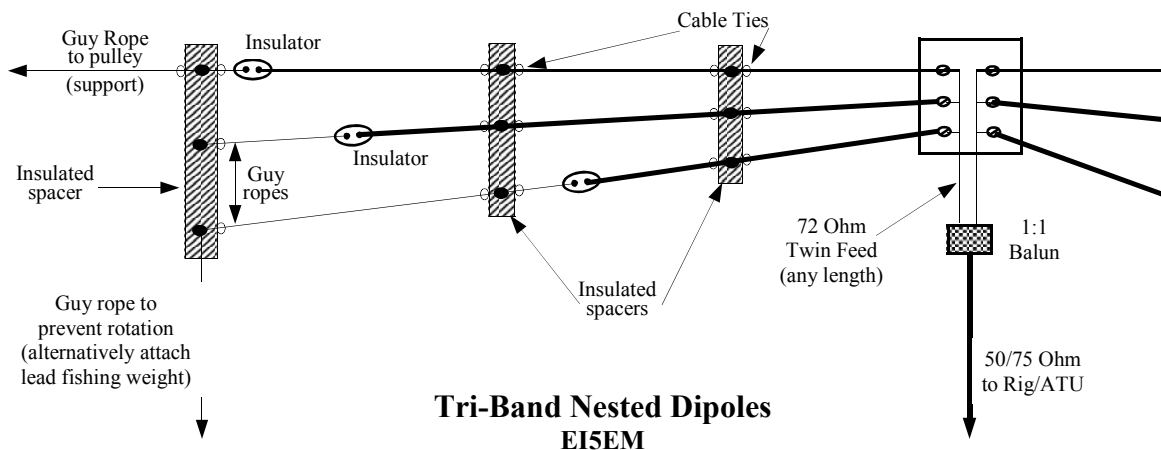
If the dipole lengths are carefully trimmed for lowest SWR on each band then the antennas can be used without an ATU. The only exception would be the 28 MHz band because the 10.1 MHz dipole is resonant at a frequency which is slightly higher than that (30.33 MHz). However, I use an ATU to transform the balanced antenna to the unbalanced impedance of the transmitter. A balun transformer alone can be used, without the need of having an ATU in circuit, if the dipoles were carefully trimmed for low SWR on the design frequencies.

The balun can be placed at the feed-point of the dipoles and 50 or 75 Ohm coaxial cable run directly to the rig or ATU. However, if the antenna is only supported at the ends, a heavy balun will cause it to sag in the centre and also strain the feed-point connections. The 72-Ohm twin feeder is very light and will avoid that problem. If the twin feeder is used, the balun can then be placed next to the rig or ATU. If the ATU has a balanced input then of course no balun will be required.

No detailed description of construction is offered. This is left to the individual builder. However, some general advice is offered.

As three different lengths are used in each case, the longest dipole supports the next longest which in turn supports the shortest. At the feed-point, each dipole half is connected to one leg of the 70 Ohm twin feeder. The dipoles then fan out at an angle from the feed-point. The greater the angle of separation the better, however the angle is not very critical.

If you decide to trim the lengths of the individual dipoles for optimum SWR, make each dipole a little longer than the calculated length. Remember that it is much easier to cut off excess than to add to a short length. Trimming one dipole will have a



small effect on the SWR of the other two. Start trimming with the longest dipole and finish with the shortest.

I use lightweight rigid plastic to keep the antennas fanned out. One-inch plastic conduit pipe is ideal for the purpose. However, the antennas can still twist and rotate in the wind and some method of preventing this is called for. The insulators at the ends of each dipole can be tied off at ground level. Alternatively, fishing line with lead weights can be attached to the end insulators and let hang vertically. If the latter method is used, make sure that the lead weights are well above head level for safety. The attached diagram will give a general idea of the construction methods used.

In conclusion, another “all band” solution might be to use a G5RV antenna as well as a single three-band nested dipole designed for the 10.1, 21 and 24 MHz. bands. See Bill Orr’s comment above about the G5RV’s poor performance on those three bands.

Technical and mathematical notes

Radio waves in free space travel at the speed of light or 299.8 million metres per second, regardless of the frequency. This means that if the frequency of a sine wave is halved then its wavelength must be doubled. The wavelength of a radio signal in metres is 299.8 multiplied by 1000,000 and then divided by the frequency in Hertz. Look at column 5 in the table. The wavelength in free space for a frequency of 1.83 MHz is calculated as follows.

$$(299.8 \times 1000000) \text{ divided by } (1.83 \times 1000000) = 163.825\text{m}$$

$$\text{Therefore a half-wavelength} = 81.91 \text{ metres.}$$

$$\text{Convert to feet by multiplying by } 3.281 = 268.73 \text{ feet}$$

However, that is a half wavelength in free space. A half wave dipole is usually made of copper wire or some other metal. In such a conductor (medium) the radio wave is slowed down to approximately 95% of its speed in free space. That is why the lengths in column 2 are approximately 95% of those in column 5.

Simplifying all above mathematics, the **total** length of a half wave wire dipole is approximately 468 feet divided by the frequency in MHz.

The formula for calculating the **total** length of a half-wave dipole in metres is 142.6 divided by frequency in MHz.

If you have any queries about building these antennas, feel free to email me: tony@ei0mar.org.

Bus to Friedrichshafen

Tony EI9IL has organised a bus and trailer to travel to the Friedrichshafen Hamfest on June 26/28th.

A group of sixteen is required to make the trip viable.

If interested, please call Tony on 087-9912341

IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS visits South Dublin Radio Club



Front L to R: Nicholas Cummins EI2JL, Jim Holohan EI4HH, IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS, Brendan De hOra EI3GV
Back L to R: Paul Eustace EI2GSB, Philip Pollock EI8JT, Michael Friary EI2GKB, Michael Staunton EI3DY, Joe Ryan EI7GY, Bob Ashmore EI6GDB, Seán Nolan EI7CD, Terry Web EI4GLB, Tom McGrath EI7HT

Engineered! A Week of Wonder or “Morse Code is Cool” *Séamus McCague EI8BP*

In 2000, Engineers Ireland set up the “STEPS to Engineering” programme to encourage schoolchildren, both primary and secondary, to explore the world of science and engineering. The Department of Education and Science recognises the value of STEPS as a key element of its own “Discover Science and Engineering” programme, supported by Forfás, FÁS and major engineering companies. In 2008, some 85,000 students took part in STEPS events provided by volunteers.

Engineered! A Week of Wonder

Engineered! A Week of Wonder, held in February this year, was a nationwide programme intended to make people more aware of engineering and science and perhaps generate a bit of enthusiasm for it.

This was an opportunity for IRTS to demonstrate the activities, the technology and the practical knowledge of radio amateurs. Before Christmas, Séamus EI8BP and IRTS PRO Paul EI2CA met with Engineers Ireland (EI) to review options.

EI liked what they heard and agreed to make available the conference room at their HQ in Clyde Road for the Dublin events.



Peter EI7CC, Séamus EI8BP & Séan EI7CD packing the kits

They were also anxious for IRTS to run others throughout the country. EI organised the venues and the attendees, no mean operation in itself.

Séamus EI8BP, Paul EI2CA, Séan EI7CD and Paul EI5DI, the steering committee members, felt that the IRTS events should have three main elements – a multi-media presentation, a practical constructional project and an opportunity for the students to put the project to use and also, if possible, to hear some live hf signals. We named the presentation **Decoding the Code** and described it on the Week of Wonder website as:

“Come and experience the wonderful world of electronics and communications, hosted by IRTS, the Irish Radio Transmitters Society. Discover how radio waves travel across the world and see how, a century before the invention of SMS texts, coded abbreviations were used to send messages quickly around the



Pictured at the briefing and distribution meeting in Portlaoise: Michael EI4AL, Séamus EI8BP, John EI7IG, Ger EI4GXB, Séan EI7CD, John EI8JA & Dave EI4BZ

Picture by Paul EI5DI

globe. Participants will have the opportunity to identify components, build a simple electronic circuit to take away and use it to send messages.”

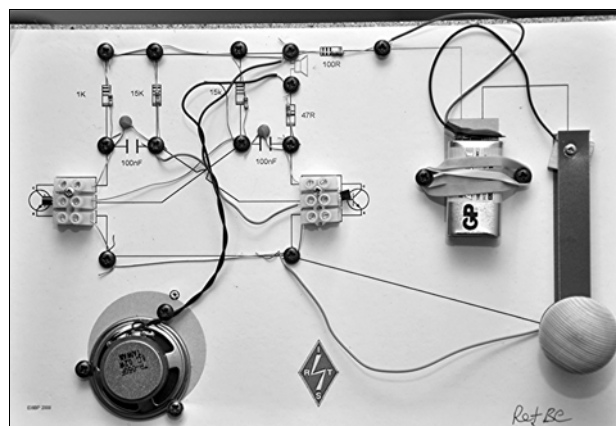
It's easy to say we need a presentation, but it's much harder and it takes much longer to come up with the goods!

Eventually, it included a description of how radio works and what it is used for today, what Morse code is and how it sounds, and how many of the abbreviations used in texting these days are already 140 years old.

We included the Jay Leno video of a race between champion teenage texters and Morse code sent by hand – won by Morse, of course.

Resistors and capacitors were described and then the participants would split into teams to bread-board a Morse oscillator and send messages to each other.

For obvious reasons, the Morse code kit did not need any soldering, only a screwdriver. We used a practice oscillator, from ARRL's website, by Mark Spencer, WA8SME and Dave Hasler, K7CCC. Our prototype worked first time, but needed a change in some component values to give a satisfactory tone.



The finished kit

There were a few minor issues. The original design used screws with washers to hold down the component wires, and it turned out to be fiddly getting the leads under the washers. We decided to use flanged screws which brought their own problems – the only ones available were lacquered and couldn't be relied on to conduct.

Nowadays most transistors are surface mount devices (SMD) or designed to mount on a PCB – with very short leads. The solution was to pre-mount the transistors in connector blocks. That took a while, because there were 200 of them for 100 kits. We also pre-soldered suitable lengths of connecting wire to the miniature speakers.

It was impossible to get 200 identical transistors and 100 identical speakers. The solution was to have an “A” kit and a “B” kit.

Everything had to be duplicated a hundred times. Boards were cut, circuit diagram attached, and screw holes pre-drilled. We packed all components and screws into 100 separate plastic bags – a lot of effort. Thanks to the steering committee and to Seán EI4GK and Peter EI7CC.

As the day approached it became clear that there were to be six venues with a total of 17 sessions. In addition to Clyde Road there were events in Lifetime Labs (Cork), in Athlone Public Library, Limerick Institute of Technology, Carlow Institute of Technology and Waterford Institute of Technology.

Local co-ordinators Dave EI4BZ, Michael EI4AL, Ger EI4GXB, Roly EI4GYB and John EI7IG liaised with the venues to make sure that all was in order.

The weekend before, we met in Portlaoise to work through the presentation and the logistics of building the kit. The co-ordinators then worked locally to bring everyone up to speed.

During the week the 17 presentations were attended by over four hundred school boys and girls and their teachers. Before the first sessions we were concerned whether they would pay attention. We needn’t have worried – they were fascinated. The facilities, particularly in Clyde Road, were first class and the multi-media elements of the presentations looked and sounded great.

We gave them demonstrations of individual letters in Morse code, and they quickly decoded any character just by following a left/right printed chart, where left represented a dot and right a dash – it was fascinating to see how many kids latched on to this right away.

They enjoyed learning that the Nokia ring tone for text messages is SMS in Morse. There were lots of sensible questions, and an informal contest to see which teams would be first to get their kits working, and perhaps win Week of Wonder T-shirts. We were kept busy helping them – it was clear that some of them were using screwdrivers for the first time – and their teachers were just as enthusiastic as the students.



At the Lifetime Lab in Cork: Jim EI3DP, Andy EI1584, Stephen EI1520, John EI3EC, Dave EI2EMB

Once the kits were working, they practiced sending words to one another – and the one we heard many times was “cool”. Other favourites were SMS and SOS.

Then they were given the chance to try a “real” traditional Morse key, followed by an electronic key with paddles – that’s the one they preferred!

There was a real buzz in the room – on one occasion we said goodbye with some Morse for them to decode – we sent CUAGN (see you again). That’s one abbreviation the texters don’t use, and it got us a round of applause.



Some of the students who enjoyed the experience in Dublin

The day after the presentations, most of us felt at a bit of a loss – it was only then we realised how enjoyable the whole exercise had been.

None of this would have been possible without the support of staff at the various venues. We probably used up the annual supply of patch wires, kindly given to us by the technicians at Carlow IT!

But of course, major thanks must go to the many people who presented and helped in the construction - too many to mention individually.

Thanks also to those in South Dublin and Mayo Clubs who were on standby.

It was a team effort between new calls and old, amateurs and non-amateurs, an opportunity to instill an interest in science, engineering and radio in young people, and to raise the profile of Amateur Radio.

We look forward to continuing the good work next year..



At the Lifetime Lab in Cork: Stephen EI1520, Finbarr EI1CS & Bill EI2GO



IRTS Winter 80m Counties Contest Results

by IRTS Contest Manager Thos Caffrey EI2JD

SSB only - Fixed

		Call Sign	Points	QSOs	Cntys	QTH
1	*EI*	EI3JE Neil Powell	14,229	171	31	COR
2		EI2CA Paul Martin	14,043	150	31	MEA
3		EI4GYB Roland Byrne	13,830	155	30	CAR
4		EI6GEB Jimmy Hammond	13,454	143	31	LAO
5		EI6JK Mark Condon	13,260	156	30	ROS
6		EI9HX Pat O'Connor	11,700	135	30	ROS
7		EI4GXB Ger McNamara	11,460	130	30	CLA
8		EI2JD Thos Caffrey	11,346	138	31	LOU
9		EI8IQ Pat Whitty	10,530	112	30	WEX
10		EI9FVB Declan Horan	10,295	124	29	COR
11		EI6GF Michael McLoughlin	10,034	115	29	WEX
12		EI3GRB Robert Muir	9,541	101	29	CLA
13	*OEI*	M0MCX Callum McCormick	9,512	82	29	
14		EI2GLB Trevor Dunne	9,296	105	28	KLD
15		EI7CD Sean Nolan	9,268	100	28	DUB
16		GI8SKN David Reid	9,268	103	28	ANT
17		EI2V Irish Air Corps ARC	8,825	107	25	DUB
18		EI2II Enda Broderick	8,816	91	29	GAL
19		EI9JU Gerard McLaughlin	8,451	97	27	DON
20		MI0CLP/p Martin Hunter	8,323	80	29	ARM
21		MI0TMW/p Merve Wylie	8,092	91	28	ANT
22		EI7CC Peter Ball	7,920	81	30	DUB
23		EI5GPB Tim McKnight	7,588	79	28	COR
24		EI2GO William Fahy	7,279	68	29	COR
25		EI8JA John McCarthy	6,675	73	25	WAT
26		M0DDT Colin Potter	6,656	64	26	
27		EI7GAB Rodney Roulston	6,129	62	27	DON
28		GI4AAM Bill Langtry	5,824	62	26	
29		EI3JB Nicholas Madigan	5,520	65	24	WAT
30		EI6GRB Jason McGarrigle	4,862	55	26	DON
31		EI3GYB Michael Foertig	4,347	51	23	MAY
32		EI2JB John A Burke	3,910	44	23	TIP
33		EI1CS Fr Finbarr Buckley	3,887	46	23	COR
34		EI3ENB Paul Norris	3,887	46	23	KLK
35		EI3FFB Eamonn Kavanagh	3,818	43	23	TIP
36		EI2FD John R Masterson	3,657	48	23	LON
37		GW4BLE Steve Cole	3,276	39	21	
38		EI2CL Michael McNamara	3,266	37	23	DUB
39		EI1DG Patrick McGrath	3,240	45	20	DUB
40		EI7IG John Ronan	2,800	41	20	WAT
41		EI5FQB Clifford Beck	2,562	32	21	OFF
42		EI9JO John W Gill	2,440	32	20	KER
43		EI7JN Tony Byrne	2,376	39	18	DUB
44		EI6GWB Gerry Breen	2,318	32	19	KLK
45		MU0FAL Colin Fallaize	2,304	36	16	
46		MW0CWJ James Cameron	2,052	27	19	
47		GW4EVX Ron Price	1,792	28	16	
48		M3YOM James Thresher	1,469	22	17	
49		EI7JG John Williams	1,358	25	14	DUB
50		EI4GNB Tim Hannigan	1,162	23	14	WIC
51		EI8JB Charlie Carolan	890	19	14	MEA
52		EI8DRB Gerard Kavanagh	784	14	14	GAL
53		G7RTI Klaus Werner	144	8	6	



**Winner SSB Fixed
Neil Powell EI3JE**



**Outside EI Winner SSB Fixed
Callum McCormick M0MCX**



**Winner SSB/CW Fixed
Dave Deane EI9FBB**

b) SSB only - Portable

1	*EI*	EI7MRE/P	Mayo R.E.N.	10,044	93	27	MAY
2		EI6IQ/p	David Corbett	4,602	48	26	MON
3		EI3GSB/P	Andrew Martin	2,831	41	19	LOU
4		EI4JN/P	Conor O'Neill	1,955	31	17	KER

c) SSB/CW Fixed

1	*EI*	EI9FBB	Dave Deane	11,116	133	28	COR
2		EI4CF	Fr Niall Foley	9,828	111	28	GAL
3		EI8IU	Brian Canning	9,690	96	30	LEI
4	*OEI*	GM3POI	CS Penna	9,164	79	29	
5		EI7GY	Joe Ryan	7,200	96	24	DUB
6		G4FKA	Geoff Plucknett	4,784	52	23	
7		EI7GL	John Desmond	3,186	60	18	COR
8		G8MIA	Andy Malbon	2,800	35	20	
9		EI9ES	Peter Morrison	2,660	38	19	DUB
10		G4WGE	Alun Cross	864	18	12	
11		G3LHJ	Derrick Webber	96	6	4	
12		G3ZRJ	Tony Roskilly	72	6	3	

d) SSB/CW Portable

No Entry

e) SWL

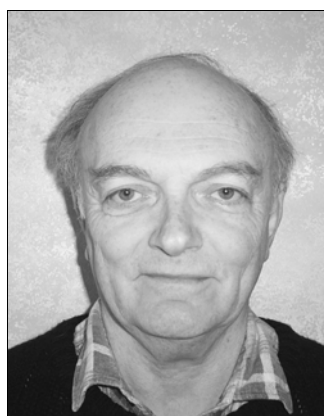
EI **EI1571** **Terence T Dignam**

Check Logs

	EI4HX	Peter Grant
	EI7IS	Mark Wall
	EI8FI	Kevin Keane
	EI8BFB	Patrick J Geoghegan
	MI5MTC	Michael Clarke
	F/G4BJM	Fraser Robertson
Total	Entry	77

EI = Award Winner : Leading EI Station

OEI = Award Winner : Leading station outside EI



**Outside EI Winner
SSB/CW Fixed
Clive Penna GM3POI**

Thanks to all who submitted their logs for the 80m Contest and congratulations to the winners.

For the first time ever we had all 32 counties on air. The most active section with 53 entries was the SSB Only – Fixed with a very narrow victory going to Neil EI3JE followed by Paul EI2CA with a difference of only 186 points.

The top 11 had over 10,000 points with 29 + counties.

Congrats to Callum M0MCX for winning the Outside EI section.

Congrats to the Mayo Team EI7MRE/p for winning the SSB Only – Portable Section.

Unfortunately there was no entry in the SSB/CW Portable section.

Please put in your diaries the 21st June 2009 for the next 80m contest and try and organise through your clubs to put in a portable effort.

Remember it will be mid-summer's day with hopefully plenty of light and heat to encourage portable activity.

Congrats to Dave EI9FBB and Clive Penna GM3POI for winning their respective sections in the SSB/CW Fixed section.

Also congrats and a big thanks to Terence EI1571 for his excellent SWL log.

Field Days

Do not forget the three IRTS organised Field Days this year.

The first one is the CW Field Day on June 6/7th and we have not had an entry in the open section in this one for a few years. We had three stations in the restricted section last year.

This is an event for even two or three operators so please give it a go.

If you want to take part in any of the Field Days and don't have the personnel or equipment yourself, please let me know and we might be able to match you up with a competing group.

The VHF/UHF Field day is on over the first weekend in July and a restricted entry on 2 metres only should be easy to do for anyone. A full blown open section entry is a bit more complicated! The SSB Field Day is on the first weekend in September and it should be easier to get operators to participate in.

73,
Thos EI2JD

Summer 80 Metres Counties Contest

Sunday June 21st 2009
1400 - 1700 utc

Spring 2m Counties Contest	April 13th
CW Field Day	June 6/7th
VHF/UHF Field Day	July 4/5th
SSB Field Day	Sept 5/6th
Autumn 2m Counties Contest	Aug 30th

Emergency Radio Communications

'Mobile Command Post' Becomes a Reality



Times may be tough, but AREN has seen generosity hit an all-time high in the last few months.

First it was the gift of a box trailer generously donated by the East Cork Contest Group in November 2008. Following this, a successful appeal was made to AREN members and friends for the donation of labour, materials, equipment and cash to enable the renovation and upgrade of this 14-year-old trailer for operational use. Then the IRTS weighed in with a substantial cash donation. Considering the value of the trailer, volunteer labour, donated materials and equipment, and cash gifts, AREN has received in excess of €9,000 in contributions and donations since late last year.

"How can a trailer be anything to get excited about?" you might ask. Well, this is no ordinary trailer. The inside is 7 feet high, 5 feet wide, 9 feet long and covered - an excellent platform for a mobile emergency communications station. Despite its substantial mass, which requires twin-axles, the trailer is easily towed. It has plenty of room for two or three operators and equipment along a table that had already been fitted along one side. As it was previously used for portable contesting, the trailer was already wired for mains power. All it needed was a good re-fit and some additional equipment, and AREN would have a self-contained all-weather communications vehicle that could be deployed anywhere in the country for almost immediate operational use.

Work began in earnest in mid-December and continued off and on during Christmas and into the new year. The chassis was stripped back to sound metal, rear standards replaced, and completely treated with anti-rust paint. Wheels and tyres were replaced, and axles, brakes and hitch were serviced. The sides were cleaned, rubbed down and re-painted. The inside table was re-finished, weather seals renewed/repared, and the door saddle and door lock replaced. Electrics and lighting were checked and renewed where needed, and a 12-volt power supply with PowerPole distribution and a solar panel have been donated and are soon to be fitted.

An HF antenna mount has been fabricated and will be fitted



Dave EI4BZ and John EI2GN inspecting the inside before collection from ECCG.



Tim EI5GPB, John EI2GN, Dave EI4BZ, Conor EI4JN, Finbarr EI1CS, Laurent EI9JV and John EI7IG at the Commissioning .

along with a VHF/UHF antenna. Finally, after three months of work, professional graphics were applied to complete what is without doubt a vehicle that is professional-looking and eminently fit for purpose.

The formal commissioning of the MCP was held in Cork on 7th March. All who contributed time, money, materials and/or equipment for the MCP were invited to attend.

After handing over the keys to the trailer, Dave EI4BZ said, "the ECCG is delighted to support the excellent efforts being made by AREN" and added that "group facilities would always be available to AREN when and if required."

Conor EI4JN, AREN Operations Coordinator and MCP project manager, said, "First of all I would like to thank the AREN members who have worked on the MCP and donated cash and equipment. Secondly, I'd like to thank the IRTS, represented today by President Finbarr, for the generous cash donation that allowed us to pay for most of the things we couldn't supply ourselves. And finally, I'd like to thank the East Cork Contest Group, represented by Chairman Dave, for donating the trailer itself."

2009 promises to be a busy year for the MCP. For many, the IRTS AGM weekend in Athlone will be the first opportunity to have a close look at the MCP.

After that, there are at least four events before September in which the MCP will be operational - one marathon, two walking festivals and one cycle race.

There are also plans to use the MCP for training purposes, possibly at the upcoming AREN AGM.

In addition to the MCP's obvious value for operational use, it fills another important role.

AREN National Coordinator John EI7IG says, "Amateur Radio has a problem - we have no focal point for good PR for the hobby and, in general, we don't know how to 'sell' the hobby. If we can't make it relevant to people's daily lives, then they aren't interested.



Tim EI5GPB painting table frame.

(Continued from page 24)

AREN is in my humble opinion probably one of the best mechanisms for getting good PR for the hobby. Invariably, if you get talking to someone at a public service event, they already know by virtue of you being there that you are 'helping out' somehow, so are more prepared to listen when you begin explaining firstly what our role is at the event, and secondly the hobby in general. This has happened time and time again at different events I have participated in with AREN." The MCP promises to be that focal point for AREN.

What about the more distant future? John EI7IG continues, "We would like to use the MCP for outreach or educational events, maybe going into schools for open days, setting up in town fairs, etc. - all with the aim of introducing the public to Amateur Radio."

As you can see, we have great plans and expectations for the MCP.

The AREN committee would like to once again thank all those who have contributed so generously - without which the Mobile Command Post would never have become a reality.

Tim McKnight
EI5GPB

For information on AREN see www.aren.ie



Dave EI4BZ handing keys to the MCP to Conor EI4JN

Your Letters.....

Contests

Dear Editor.

It's 2200z Saturday evening, a time that most normal amateurs would like to look around the lower bands for a civilised chat about gear, antennas and other experimental subjects.

I find however a weird contest "CQ BERU". I call the station (80m) to enquire what is the contest and am told NO EI's. There is no mention of this "contest" on page 26 of Echo Ireland for today's date.

Must each weekend be plagued by this rude arrogant and unfriendly behaviour, on bands that according to our charter are for experimental purposes. CQ BERU plus odd numbers and more odd signal reports cannot be in the widest sense considered experimental.

Presently here and in UK the hobby is trying to attract young people. This weekend contest mania is hardly likely to help.

I have had my present licence for 48 years and have until the past few years enjoyed a friendly, mannerly hobby. Perhaps the urge to send silly reports and numbers to as many stations as possible could be assuaged by copious doses of Viagra and more athletic and friendly pursuits.

Tom EI2AJ

RSGB News Broadcast s available on MP3

Dear OM,

I wonder if I might draw your attention to the MP3 version of the RSGB weekly news (GB2RS) which I have put out weekly for some time now - in fact about 11 years! This is an "official" arrangement with the RSGB. Other newsreaders broadcast: I read on mp3 files.

The link is <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/g4njh2/rsbg.html>. It is uploaded on Wed or Thu latest for downloading direct from the page or some use an ipod type link through the RSGB pages.

The text is the GB2RS script which is read for the next Sunday and which appears on the RSGB site.

73 de

Jeremy Boot, G4NJH

New Repeater in GI

For your information:

A new repeater (GB3CP) is due to come online in South Fermanagh N. I.

The frequency of the repeater is 145.7375, input is 145.1375 Tone 1750Hz/110.9Hz

The licence has been granted and it just awaits installation on Carnmore Mountain between Fivemiletown in County Tyrone and Roslea in County Fermanagh.

The repeater will be situated in County Fermanagh.

Any of the above information is open to change.

Best Regards,

Adrian, GI6ZIR,

On Behalf of Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club.

AREN Report

Activities:

AREN was present at the recent (14th March) Coast Guard exercise (EI6HB and EI7IG). Services present included Coast Guard, HSE, Gardai and the RNLI. The exercise was quite interesting to observe, and, as the exercise progressed, it became obvious how AREN could help in providing communications at such an event in the future.

AREN (EI7IG, EI2JB, EI3FFB) met with members of South East Mountain Rescue Association (SEMRA) on the 28th of March in order to do a recce for the event on the 5th of April and check that communications were possible between the suggested checkpoint locations and the event HQ.

April 5th, Galtee Walking Club Marathon

South East Mountain Rescue Association contacted AREN on Tuesday the 24th of February requesting our assistance for this event as it is a new event and has never been run before.

April 11th, Maamturk Walk

Amateur's are providing communications for the Maamturk walk.

May 29-30, Galtee Walking Festival

AREN will be contacting the organisers shortly re this event, to begin organising.

July 4th, Comeragh Challenge

AREN was contacted by Dungarvan Walking Club early in February to provide communications for this event. AREN hasn't participated in this before.

August 30th, Sean Kelly Tour

AREN is expecting to be asked to participate by the Local Authority.

November, SEMRA Exercise

SEMRA have indicated that there may be the possibility for a full exercise scenario be run at some stage later in the year. Having observed this in 2006 it effectively means a full team call out (50 persons).

Mobile Command Post:

See article elsewhere in this issue. It had its first outing at the Galtee Walking Club Marathon on April 5th.

AREN Nets:

Nets are still running on the 7th and 21st of each month at 19:30 hours. These are Voice/Digimode nets respectively.

GlobalSET is coming up again on the 18th of April, AREN members will be participating. GlobalSET is coinciding with World Amateur Radio Day this year, and it may be possible to avail of the opportunity to gain some press coverage.

For further information on AREN, please contact:

John Ronan EI7IG, AREN Co-ordinator

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ei7ig@aren.ie

www.aren.ie

500 kHz Permissions

Expressions of interest sought

Arising from the meeting on 12 February, ComReg has agreed to allow IRTS to seek expressions of interest for a limited number of permissions to operate in the region of 500 kHz under a licence to be issued to IRTS.

Expressions of interest are being sought equally from both non IRTS and IRTS members. Stations to which permissions are issued will have to send regular reports to IRTS consisting of their experience of propagation, type of propagation used, noise experienced and methodology used on this band so that these can be co-ordinated and periodic reports submitted to ComReg.

Participants will be expected to keep a separate full detailed log of all experiments conducted.

It should be noted that only a relatively small number of permissions will be granted and expressions of interest should only be made by those in a position to carry out realistic propagation experiments in this part of the spectrum.

A form on which to submit to IRTS an expression of interest is available on the IRTS website at www.irts.ie

The final decision on the issue of permits will of course rest with ComReg as the statutory licensing authority.

Radio News Deadline

Noon on Thursdays

**News Editor
Charlie Carolan EI8JB**

**Input for the radio news should
be sent via e-mail to
charlie.carolan@gmail.com. or
newsteam@irts.ie
or by phone to 087-6265418**

**Irish Radio Transmitters Society
80m Counties Contest
Sunday June 21st 1400 - 1700**

EI's on EQSL

(as at March 31st 2009)

EI DXCC Listings

(as at April 7th 2009)

DXCC Confirmed

Worked All States

191	EI7BA (+3)	Approved	50	EI4CF	Approved
166	EI3IO		50	EI9FBB	Approved
157	EI4CF	Approved	50	EJ9FBB	Approved
145	EI2JD (+1)	Approved	50	EI9HX	
143	EI9FBB (+3)	Approved	49	EI9HQ	
140	EI7CC		49	EJ9HQ	
140	EI9FBB	Approved	47	EI6HB (+1)	
138	EI6IZ	Approved	46	EI3IO	
138	EI9HX		45	EI8GP (+1)	
129	EI0CZ		44	EI4IS	
106	EI3GYB (+1)		44	EI5GM (+1)	
103	EI6AL (+4)	Approved	43	EI7BA	
102	EI6JK		43	EI7JN (+1)	
99	EI9FVB (+1)	AG	40	EI2JD (+1)	
97	EI6HB	AG	38	EI5IF	
96	EI9HQ	Approved	35	EI7CC	
95	EI8IU (+1)	Bronze AG	36	EI9HW (+1)	
92	EI9HQ	Approved	34	EI0W (+2)	
92	EI5IF	AG	30	EI6JK	
90	EI8FH (+2)	Approved	30	EI4GXB (+1)	
86	EI9ES	Approved	29	EI9ES	
84	EI1DG (+3)	AG	29	EI9FVB (+1)	
82	EI4GXB (+3)		26	EI6AL	
78	EI5GM		25	EI9JM	
76	EI0W (+3)		20	EI9O	
73	EI7IX (+3)	Approved			
72	EI4GNB (+4)	Approved			
69	EI2II	Approved			
69	EI3HA (+3)		39	EI4CF	
69	EI8GP		39	EI7BA	
68	EI/DH0GSU/p		39	EI9HX	
68	EI8JR	AG	39	EI9FBB (+1)	
67	EI4HH	Approved	39	EJ9FBB	
67	EI4HQ	AG	37	EI3IO	
65	EI7M		36	EI2JD (+2)	
65	EI8DD	Approved	33	EI7CC	
65	EI8DL	Approved	31	EI5IF	
63	EI9O (+5)	AG	31	EI6AL	
61	EI4IS		31	EI6JK	
60	EI7JN	Silver	30	EI3GYB	
60	EI9JM (+2)	AG	28	EI4GMB (New)	
58	EI9JF		25	EI0W	
56	EI7BMB	AG	22	EI7JN	
55	EI5GJB (+4)	Approved	18	EI9O	
54	EI7IQ	AG	07	EI4HX (New)	
53	EI6IL	Approved	06	EI7IW	
52	EI6ARB (+4)	Approved			
52	EI6CPB	Approved			
50	EI6AK	AG			
50	EI8JK	AG	1049	EI4CF (+179)	
49	EI2FSB	Approved	825	EI2JD (+23)	Approved
48	EI7BFB	Approved	709	EI3IO	
48	EI8IQ		685	EI9FBB (+36)	Approved
43	EI7IM		664	EI9HQ (+19)	Approved
42	EI5IX	Silver	608	EI7CC	
41	EI3EBB		535	EI0W (+45)	
41	EI5GSB (+3)	Approved	532	EI7BA (+46)	
39	EI6IF	AG	482	EI6JK	
39	EI9CF	Silver AG	452	EI9FVB (+22)	
39	EI9EW (New)		348	EI5IF	
36	EI2GLB (+7)	Approved	333	EI5GM	
34	EI1KARG		319	EI4GXB	
34	EI3JB	AG	299	EI8GP	
31	EI1571 (New)		291	EI9JM	
31	EI90GPO	AG	213	EI7JN	
29	EI4GMB (New)		200	EI4GMB (New)	
29	EI7GM (+2)	Approved	167	EI8IU	
27	EI3GDB	Approved	166	EI8DL	
25	EI2FS		149	EI9O	
24	EI7IW (+1)	Approved	31	EI4HX (New)	
20	EI0CPL				
20	EI2IV				
18	EI4HX (New)				

EQSL list maintained by EI2JD

Mixed

352	EI8H (+3)
350	EI6S (+2)
347	EI7CC
341	EI6FR
340	EI2GS
321	EI3IO
306	EI2HY
294	EI7BA (+30)
270	EI2CR
265	EI9FBB
262	EI2GX
248	EI9JF (+18)
238	EI2JD
232	EI4BZ
211	EI6IZ
205	EI5GM
189	EI8IU
152	EI6HB
134	EI9O (New)
131	EI9HQ
128	EI8HA
103	EI6AL
103	EI9FVB
100	EI4GXB

Phone

345	EI7CC
344	EI6S (+1)
338	EI2GS
334	EI8EM
331	EI8AR
317	EI6FR
300	EI8AU
277	EI3GV
260	EI9FBB
253	EI4GK
238	EI7BA (+41)
229	EI8GS
221	EI2JD
213	EI7GL
193	EI9JF (+16)
186	EI7II
177	EI9FE
165	EI2CH
147	EI4BZ
135	EI8IU
125	EI9HQ
119	EI4HH
114	EI4EX
108	EI6HB
105	EI9HX
105	EI1CS
103	EI9FVB
101	EI3IP

CW

314	EI7CC
269	EI7BA (+30)
255	EI6FR
220	EI4BZ
197	EI6IZ
178	EI9JF (+50)
167	EI2JD
159	EI9FBB
134	EI8IU
109	EI2IH
109	EI4HM
107	EI/GM4ARJ
106	EI1DG
100	EI6AL

RTTY/Digital

108	EI6FR (+6)
102	EI6HB

Satellite

No Entry

160m

184	EI3IO
112	EI7BA (+6)
80m	
167	EI7BA (+36)
147	EI9FBB
104	EI4BZ
100	EI2JD
40m	
187	EI9FBB
185	EI7BA (+42)
129	EI2JD
117	EI7GL
113	EI6IZ
112	EI4BZ

30m

165	EI7BA (+47)
112	EI6IZ
106	EI4BZ
103	EI9FBB

20m

226	EI9FBB
221	EI7BA (+47)
169	EI2JD
150	EI4BZ
150	EI9JF (+29)
121	EI6IZ
111	EI8GS
110	EI3GV
102	EI9HQ

17m

201	EI7BA (+55)
143	EI9FBB

15m

182	EI7BA (+43)
164	EI4BZ
151	EI9FBB
126	EI2JD
109	EI8GS
108	EI3GV

12m

132	EI7BA (+30)
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10m

154	EI7BA (+44)
144	EI7GL
134	EI4BZ
128	EI4GK
128	EI2JD
106	EI9FBB
104	EI8GS

6m

155	EI3IO
111	EI7GL (+7)
101	EI3EBB

2m No entry

QRP DXCC No Entry

DXCC Challenge

1529	EI7BA (+344)
1521	EI7CC
1389	EI3IO
1175	EI6FR (+3)
1134	EI9FBB

DXCC Honor Roll

Mixed

338	EI6FR/341
335	EI2GS/340
335	EI6S/350
335	EI7CC/347

Phone

333	EI2GS/338
333	EI7CC/345
331	EI6S/344
329	EI8EM/334

Members Advertisements

For Sale: Icom PCR-1000 Computer Controlled Receiver, 0.5-1300MHz, UT-106DSP,€250 o.n.o.
Kenwood TS-2000X Transceiver,€1300 o.n.o.
Contact John, EI7IG, 086-8167310 or jpronans@gmail.com

For Sale: Log Periodic antenna MIP-32 plus light antenna rotor.
100-1300MHz Tx -Rx
Price€150.00
Contact Joe EI4GX on 085-1601373

For Sale: A4S Antenna, working 100%. Realistic offers to Kieran 087-2578993.

Stolen: On March 18th between 7pm and 9.30 pm - an Icom 207h was removed from the vehicle of Victor EI5GLB in Tullamore, outside Atlantic Homecare. Anyone with information should contact Victor on 087-7757574

Wanted: User manual for a TS 530 s/p, Phone 085 7640044 or email pathutton@eircom.net

For Sale: Kenwood TS 870s, 100w HF Transceiver/dsp. One owner from new, mint c/w all accessories, Double boxed, manuals etc.
Yaesu FP 700 PSU 13.8 / 20A
Yaesu FC102 ATU
Heil HMMK mic, to suit any Kenwood radio, built in HC4 and HC5 elements
W2IHY 8 Band audio equaliser/noise gate, c/w PSU and leads.
All items P.O.A.
Contact 087 2667434 , ei4gyb@arrl.net

For Sale: 100 foot Self Supporting Tower, Perfect Condition, (5 X 20 foot sections)
Contact Eoin on 086 6009110

Members
Advertisements
are free

Bangor and District Amateur Radio Society Annual Rally

Sunday 14th June 2009

"The Country Club", Crawfordsburn.

Doors open 12 noon Admission £2.00 incl. 2 raffle tickets

The new RSGB GB4FUN vehicle, trade stands, Bring and Buy, ballot and a good selection of radio and computer traders will be in attendance

Special interest groups will have their own stands

The ever popular FREE bring and buy will be running as normal

Contact Bill GI4AAM for further details:
Tel: 028 9181 6707

Email: bill.langtry@btinternet.com

Bangor And District ARS,
Michael Stevenson GI4XSF (PRO), 69 Portaferry Road, Cloughey, Newtownards
County Down BT22 1HP
Tel 028 4277 2383 Email mike@gi4xsf.com

Bangor and District Amateur Radio Society

Meet on the 1st Thursday of every month in "The Boathouse", Groomsport at 8pm.

At 8pm on Thursday 7th May 2009

Pete GI4VIV will deliver a talk on computer logging.

As always, visitors and new members are most welcome.

More information from Mike GI4XSF on 028-42772383, or on the club web-site :

<http://www.bdars.com>

Galway Radio News Broadcasts

The IRTS Radio News bulletin broadcasts have resumed in the Galway area.

Transmissions are on the simplex frequency of 145.550 (S22) and can be heard every Monday at 8 pm with Steve Wright EI5DD as the newsreader.

Callers will be very welcome

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

The Shop



10% discount for IRTS members on Amateur Radio Books

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Lagan Valley ARS

The Officers, Committee and Members of the LVARS would like to say thank you to all those who attended, or in any way supported our rally on Saturday March 14th.

The turnout was magnificent and from our point of view, this was one of the most successful rallies ever.

We hope you enjoyed the show, met up with old friends and maybe even made a few new ones. We extend our sincere appreciation to you all and hope to see you again in 2010.

Mid-Ulster Amateur Radio Rally Saturday 9th May 2009 at 1100

**Drumgor Youth Centre,
Drumgor Heights, Drumgor,
Craigavon BT65 4AP**

**Please E-mail Club Secretary for more details
on cqmuarc@googlemail.com
www.muarc.com**

Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

April 2009

18	Sat 1600 - 1959	EU Sprint Spring	SSB
25-25	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	SP DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
25-25	Sat 1300 - Sun 1259	Helvetia Contest	CW/SSB/Digi

May 2009

30-31	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW WPX Contest	CW
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June 2009

6-7	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	IRTS HF CW Field Day	CW
21	Sun 1400 - Sun 1700	IRTS 80m Counties Contest	CW/SSB

July 2009

4-5	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day	SSB/CW/FM
11-12	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	IARU HF Championships	CW/SSB
25-26	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Islands on the Air Contest	CW/SSB

August 2009

30	Sun 1300 - Sun 1500	IRTS 2m Counties Contest	SSB/CW/FM
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September 2009

5-6	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	IRTS HF SSB Field Day	CW
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For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

SM3CER Contest Service <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

Date for Mayo Rally Announced.

The 2009 Mayo Rally will be held on Sunday November 22 in Castlebar.

The venue is The Welcome Inn Hotel, where the 2008 rally was held at short notice, and doors open at 11.00am.

Rally Director, Padraic Baynes, EI9JA, is now taking bookings for stands at the rally. He can be contacted on 087 6957154. The hotel will be offering a rally special deal for accommodation. Full details will be available soon.

40m News Bulletin Frequency Change

As the new 40m band plan would put the existing 40 metre radio news frequency of 7043 kHz in a section of the band which is for narrowband modes only, the 40 metre radio news bulletin has moved 12 kHz higher in frequency to 7055 kHz which is in an all mode segment of the band.

The 40m news broadcast is on Sundays at 1100.

Experimenter - Ham

Wescom Ireland Ltd



I am retiring from this business as of
July 2009

Final Rally Athlone April 26th

**Everything Must Go
Bargains Galore
New Rigs, Antennas, Test Gear,
Rotators etc.
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All to Clear.**

See www.wescom.ie

I am handing over this business in July to Rory in ProComm

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www.mi0jbt.com



New Icom Radios

Price List 2009

IC-2200H	€249.00
IC-E2820.....	€494.00
IC-208.....	€315.00
IC-2725.....	€399.00
IC-703.....	€655.00
IC-706 MKIIG	€920.00
IC-7000.....	€1,170.00
IC-7400.....	€1,274.00
IC-756 PRO III	€2,585.00



New Yaesu Radios

Price List 2009

FT-7800	€225.00
FT-8800	€337.00
FT-8900	€375.00
FT-817ND.....	€499.00
FT-857D	€649.00
FT-897D	€749.00
FT-450	€775.00
FT-950	€1,125.00
FT-2000	€2,375.00
FT-2000D	€2,999.00

New Power Supplies.

Power-Mite - NF.

22 Amp continuous, Switch Mode Power Supply
 Variable Voltage Mini Size, noise offset.....€78.95

Power-Max-25 - NF.

22 Amp continuous Switch Mode, Variable Voltage
 Power Supply, Volt and Amp meters, Noise offset€117.50

Power-Max-45 - NF.

38 Amp continuous Switch Mode, Variable Voltage
 Power Supply, Volt and Amp meters, Noise offset€156.00

W-25AM Watson

25A Variable Voltage Power Supply plus
 Volt/Amp meters, 0 - 15V DC, Cigar Socket,
 Front Panel Fuse. Size 240 x 15 x 230mm€117.00

W-30AM Watson 30A

Variable Voltage Power Supply plus
 Volt/Amp meters, 35A Peak, Over current
 protected, 3 sets of terminals, Cigar Socket,
 Front panel fuse€156.00

GZV 2500 Diamond 25A

3-15V Variable Switch Mode Power Supply,
 25A continuous. Built-in cooling fan.
 Size 210 x 110 x 220mm, Weight 2.5kg€188.00

Used Price List

Kenwood TS450 Manual on CD	£455.00
Kenwood AT-200 Perfect Working Order	£145.00
Kenwood TM-V7E Good condx P.W.O.....	£200.00
Kenwood PS-50. Good Condx. PWO.....	£165.00
Kenwood TS790. GoodCondx Manual, Boxed	£595.00
Kenwood TS2000. Mint Boxed with Manual,	£999.00
Kenwood SP-23. Boxed in P.W.O.	£55.00
Yaesu FC-40 New Auto ATU.	£200.00
Yaesu FT100D. Manual, boxed etc.	£375.00
Yaesu SP 8 Speaker. Mint condx, as new.....	£90.00
Yaesu MD-200A8X Desk Mic. As new	£145.00
Yaesu FT-817 Boxed, as new.....	£300.00
Yaesu MD100 Mint condx Desk Mic.....	£95.00
Yaesu FT1000 MK5 Field, boxed, Mic, Manual etc. £1150.00	
Yeasu GS065 New Mast Head Bearing.....	£49.50
<u>Just In</u> IC-756 Pro II Box, manual mic/power lead	£799.00
Icom IC718 Boxed, Power lead, mic & manual	£365.00
Icom IC7000 Boxed/Manuals etc. Only 3 mnths old...	£695.00
Icom IC-706 MkIIg, Manual, Power lead etc. Boxed..	£525.00
Icom PS55 PSU, Perfect working order	£125.00
MFJ 969D Working perfectly	£135.00
MFJ 931 Good item	£99.00
Watson 30A PSU New.....	£129.00
Watson New Hunter Frequency Finder	£59.00
Watson FC130 New Frequency Finder	£79.00

Trade-ins are always welcome.

All emails will be answered a.s.a.p.

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Dunmore East,
Co. Waterford.
Tel: 051-385853
087-2513772**

Used Equipment

All prices for straight sales

Alinco DR-610, 2m/70cm Mobile. 50/35w	€249.00
Alinco DR-635, 2/70cm Mobile. Crossband Repeater option	
	Special €299.00 New
AOR 3000A 0-2036 MHz, 400 memories. All Mode	€499.00
AOR 5000. 0-2600MHz. 1000 Mems. All Mode	€1,199.00
AOR 7030 Award winning Rx. 0-30MHz Boxed/mint.....	€599.00
Garmin Quest Handheld GPS. Ireland & Europe.....	€125.00
Icom IC-91E, 2m/70cm Handheld. D-Star fitted	€349.00
Icom IC-746, 100w HF/6m/2m Auto ATU	€949.00
Icom IC756PROII. One owner. Auto ATU, DSP	€1,299.00
Icom IC-821H 2m/70cm 45/35w base multi-mode,	€799.00
Icom ICR-7000 25-2000MHz. Desktop Receiver	€499.00
Kenwood AT-50. Matching Auto Tuner for TS-50	€249.00
Kenwood MC60 Desk Mic. Mint condition.	€125.00
Kenwood TM455E 45w, 70cm multi-mode,	€249.00
Kenwood TS-570DGE, HF rig with DSP AUTO ATU	€899.00
Kenwood TS-790 2m/70cm/23cm. All mode base stn.....	€899.00
Kenwood TS-850SAT, Auto ATU. Mint, Boxed.....	€799.00
Kenwood TS-2000, HF /70cms, Auto ATU, Boxed,	€1,199.00
Kenwood TS-2000X. HF/2/23cm, Auto ATU, DSP	€1,399.00
MFJ 949E 300w Antenna with dummy load.....	€149.00
Realistic PRO 2006. 25-1300 MHz. 400 memories	€175.00
Uniden Bearcat UBC780XLT 25-1300MHz.	
Trunk Tracker	€225.00
Uniden Bearcat UBC800XLT. Latest base/m scanner	€249.00
Watson 22 Amp 0-15v PSU. Special offer - New!.....	€89.00
Yaesu MD-1 Desk Mic for FT990, FT736, FT1000 etc	€89.00
Yaesu FT-60R, 2m/70cm Handheld + charger.....	€159.00
Yaesu FT-847 Earth Station. HF/6m/2m/70cm.	€1,099.00
Yaesu FT-920AF, HF + 6m, Auto ATU, DSP	€899.00
Icom IC-271H, 100w 2m multimode	€349.00
Kenwood TS-680, 100w HF + 6m Fair condx	€375.00
Yaesu FC-20 Auto ATU for FT-847 etc.	€275.00
Kenwood TS0450SAT, 100w HF + Auto ATU	€699.00
Yaesu Ft-2000, Boxed, mint, as new	€1,889.00
Icom IC/PS15. 20A Power Supply	€99.00
Kenwood SP-230 Extension Speaker	€99.00
Kenwood PS-33 20A matching PSU TS-850 etc	€199.00
Icom AH-4, HF + 6m Auto ATU	€299.00
Icom PS-125 Matching PSU for IC-746 & PRO Series	€249.00
Icom ICR-10 0-1300MHz All mode handheld scanner.....	€249.00
AOR-8200 Mk3, 0-260-0 MHz. All mode handheld	€275.00
Icom ICR-7100, 25-2000MHz Rx, 1,000 Mems, all mode.....	€699.00
Yupiteru MVT-9000. 0-2040 MHZ All Mode h/h.....	€289.00
Sony ICF-SW7600G, Portable SW Rx with FM.....	€129.00
Kenwood TS-870SAT. HF Rig DSP + Auto ATU	€1,099.00
Icom IC-765, Base Stn HF Rig Built -in PSU + Auto ATU.....	€899.00
Icom ICE-208 Dual Band 2m/70cm Mobile	€229.00
Yaesu FT-897D HF + 6m=2m + 70cm	€575.00
Rigblaster Plus multi mode data decoder	€149.00

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Yaesu FT-1000MK5 Field. 100w. Built in PSU/ATU .. €1,449.00
Yaesu VR5000. 0-2600MHz. Base/mobile. Mint. €429.00
Yaesu VX7R, Triband waterproof h/h 6/2/70cm €219.00
AOT 7030+. Award winning Receiver. Boxed, Mint €799.00
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